

Images of U.S. Type Coins

The following "virtual type collection" is a collection of coin images downloaded from a variety of web sites such as on-line auctions, dealer coin sites and ANA archives. While the quality is variable most are good and several outstanding images of rarities are included. Examples include the 1796 small eagle half dollar and 1808 quarter eagle. The collection is complete except for ongoing state quarter issues. Enjoy at your leisure and download any images of interest.

Half Cents

[Flowing Hair 1793](#) (Obv,Rev) ([Obv,Image 2](#)) ([Rev,Image 2](#))

[Liberty Cap Large Head 1794](#) (Obv) [Rev](#)

[Liberty Cap Small Head 1795-1797](#) (Obv) ([Rev](#))

[Draped Bust 1800-1808](#) (Obv) ([Rev](#))

[Classic Head 1809-1835](#) (Obv) ([Rev](#))

[Coronet Head 1840-1857](#)(Obv) [Rev](#)

Large Cents

[Chain 1793](#)(Obv) [Rev](#)

[Wreath 1793](#)(Obv) [Rev](#)

[Liberty Cap High Relief Large Head 1794](#) (Obv) [Rev](#)

[Liberty Cap Low Relief Small Head 1795-6](#) (Obv) ([Rev](#))

[Draped Bust 1796-1807](#) (Obv) ([Rev](#))

[Classic head 1808-1814](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Matron Head 1816-1833](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Modified Matron Head 1834-1839](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Braided Hair 1840-1857](#) (Obv,Rev)

Small Cents

[Flying Eagle 1857-1858](#) (Obv,) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Indian CN 1859](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Indian CN 1860-1909](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Indian 1864-1909](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Lincoln 1909 V.D.B.](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Lincoln 1943 steel](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Lincoln Memorial 1959-](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Two-Cent Pieces 1864-1873](#) (Obv,Rev)

Silver Three Cent Pieces

[Type 1 1851-1853](#)(Obv,Rev)

[Type 2 1854-1858](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Type 3 1859-1873](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Nickel Three Cent Pieces 1865-1889](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

5 Cent Nickels

[Shield-Rays 1866-1867](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Shield-No Rays 1867-1883](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Head NC 1883](#) (Obv,Rev) [\(Obv2\)](#) [\(Rev2\)](#)

[Liberty Head WC 1883-1912](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Buffalo Type 1 1913](#) (Obv) (Rev) [\(Obv2\)](#) [\(Rev2\)](#)

[Buffalo Type 2 1913-1938](#)(Obv) [Rev](#)

[Jefferson Wartime 1942-1945](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Jefferson 1938-](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Peace, Keelboat Nickels 2004](#) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Bison, Ocean View Nickels 2005](#) [\(Rev\)](#)

Half Dimes

[Half Disme 1792](#)(OBV) [\(REV\)](#)

[Flowing Hair 1794-1795](#) (OBV) [\(OBV2\)](#) [\(REV2\)](#)

[**Draped Bust SE 1796-1797\(OBV\) \(REV\)**](#)

[**Draped Bust HE 1800-1805 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Capped Bust 1829-1837 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty Seated-NS 1837-1838\(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty Seated No Drapery 1838-1840 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty Seated-Stars 1838-1859 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty Seated-Arrows 1853-1855 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty Seated-Legend 1860-1873 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

Dimes

[**Draped bust SE 1796-1797\(OBV\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Draped Bust HE 1798-1807 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Capped Bust Large 1809-1828 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Capped Bust Small 1828-1837 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty seated No Stars 1837-1838\(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty seated Stars 1838-1860 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty Seated No Drapery 1838-1840 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty seated Arrows 1853-1855 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)**](#)

[**Liberty seated Legend 1860-1891 \(Obv,Rev\)**](#)

[Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Barber 1892-1916 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Mercury 1916-1945 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Roosevelt 1946-1964 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Twenty Cent Piece 1875-1878 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

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[Draped bust SE 1796 \(Obv\) \(Obv2\) \(Rev2\)](#)

[Draped Bust HE 1804-1807 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Large Bust 1815-1828 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Small Bust 1831-1838 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Seated No Motto No Drapery 1838-1840 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Seated No Motto with drapery 1838-1865 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Seated A & R 1853 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Seated Arrows 1854-1855 \(Obv, Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Seated with motto 1866-1891 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874 \(Obv\) \(Obv2\) \(Rev2\)](#)

[Barber 1892-1916 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

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[Standing liberty type 2 1917-1930\(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Bicentennial 1976 \(Obv\) \(Rev\)](#)

[Washington silver 1932-64\(Obv,Rev\)](#)

[Washington clad 1975-98\(Obv,Rev\)](#)

[State quarters 1999 \(Rev\)](#)

[State quarters 2000 \(Rev\)](#)

[State quarters 2001 \(Rev\)](#)

[State quarters 2002 \(Rev\)](#)

[State quarters 2003 \(Rev\)](#)

[State quarters 2004 \(Rev\)](#)

[State quarters 2005 \(Rev\)](#)

Half Dollars

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[Draped Bust Small Eagle 1796-1797 \(Obv,Rev\)](#)

[Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle 1801-1807\(Obv\) Rev](#)

[Capped Bust 1807-1836 \(Obv,Rev\)](#)

[Capped Bust Reeded Edge\("50 cents"\) 1836-1837\(Obv,Rev\)](#)

[Capped Bust Reeded Edge\("Half Dol"\) 1838-1839](#)(Obv,Rev)

[Liberty seated No motto No Drapery 1839](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty seated No Motto with drapery 1839-1866](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty seated Arrows and Rays 1853](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty seated Arrows 1854-1855](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty seated With Motto 1866-1891](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty seated Arrows 1873-1874](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Barber 1892-1915](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Walking 1916-1947](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Franklin 1948-1963](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Kennedy 1964-](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Kennedy Bicentennial 1976](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

Dollars

[Flowing Hair 1794-1795](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Draped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1798](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

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[Gobrecht 1836-1839](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Liberty Seated No Motto 1840-1866](#)(Obv,Rev)

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[Trade Dollar 1873-1883](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Morgan 1878-1921](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Peace High Relief 1921](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Peace 1922-1935](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Eisenhower 1971-1978](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Eisenhower Bicentennial 1976](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Susan B. Anthony 1979-1999](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Sacagawea 2000](#) (Obv,Rev)

Gold Dollars

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[Type 2 1854-1856](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

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[Capped Bust Right No stars 1796](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Capped Bust Right 1796-1807](#) (Obv)

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[Capped Bust Left Small 1821-1827](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Capped Bust Left Small 1829-1834](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Classic Head 1834-1839](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

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[Three Dollar Gold 1854-1889](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Four Dollar Gold Flowing Hair 1879-1880](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Four dollar gold Coiled Hair 1879-1880](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

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[Capped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1798](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

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[Capped Draped Bust 1807-1812](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Capped Head 1813-1834](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Classic Head 1834-1838](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Coronet No Motto 1839-1866](#) (Obv) (Rev)

[Liberty Coronet with Motto 1866-1908](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Indian Head 1908-1929](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

Eagles

[Capped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1797](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Capped Bust Large Eagle 1797-1804](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Coronet No Motto 1838-1866](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Liberty Coronet 1866-1907](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Indian Head No Motto 1907-1908](#) (Obv) [\(Obv2\)](#) [\(Rev2\)](#)

[Indian Head 1908-1933](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

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[Liberty Coronet \(twenty D\) 1866-1876](#) (Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

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[Saint Gaudens Roman Numerals High Release 1907](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

[Saint Gaudens, No Motto 1907-1908](#) (Obv,Rev)

[Saint Gaudens with motto 1907-1932](#)(Obv) [\(Rev\)](#)

Bullion Coins

[One ounce silver \\$1.00 1986-](#) (Obv, Rev)

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[Quarter ounce gold \\$10.00 1986- \(Obv, Rev\)](#)

[Half ounce gold \\$25.00 1986- \(Obv, Rev\)](#)

[One ounce gold \\$50.00 1986- \(Obv, Rev\)](#)

[Quarter ounce-one ounce platinum \\$10.00-\\$100.00 1997- \(Obv, Rev\)](#)

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1217



1857



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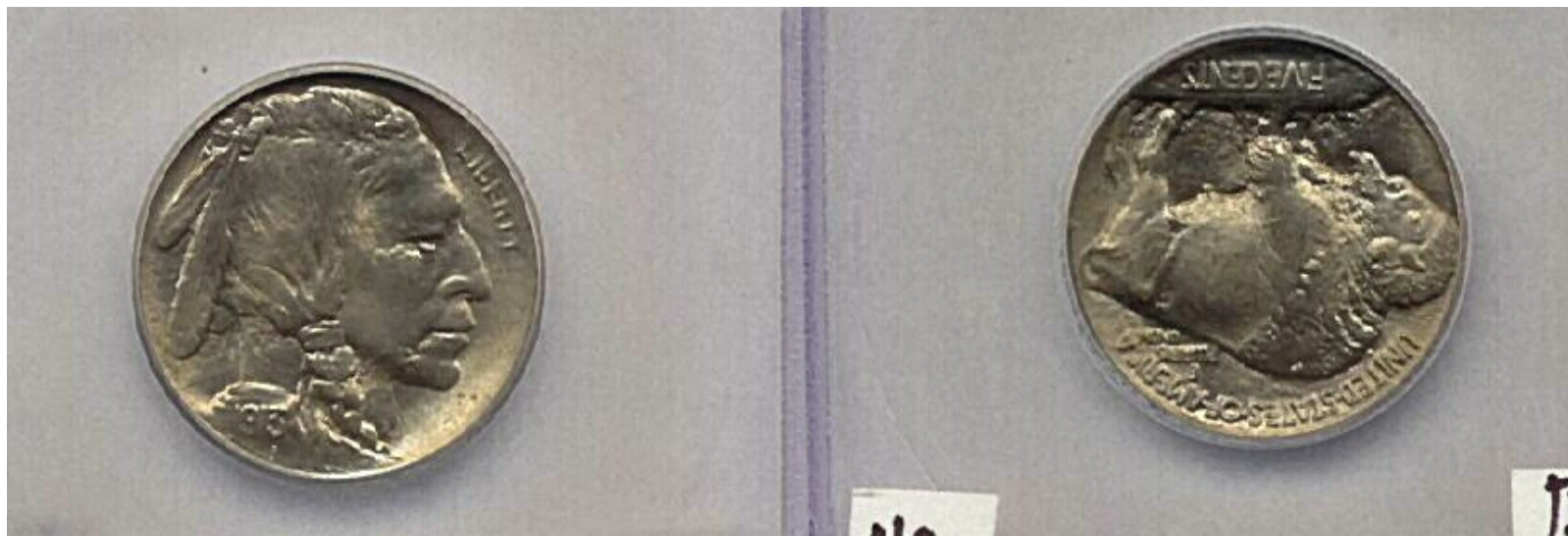














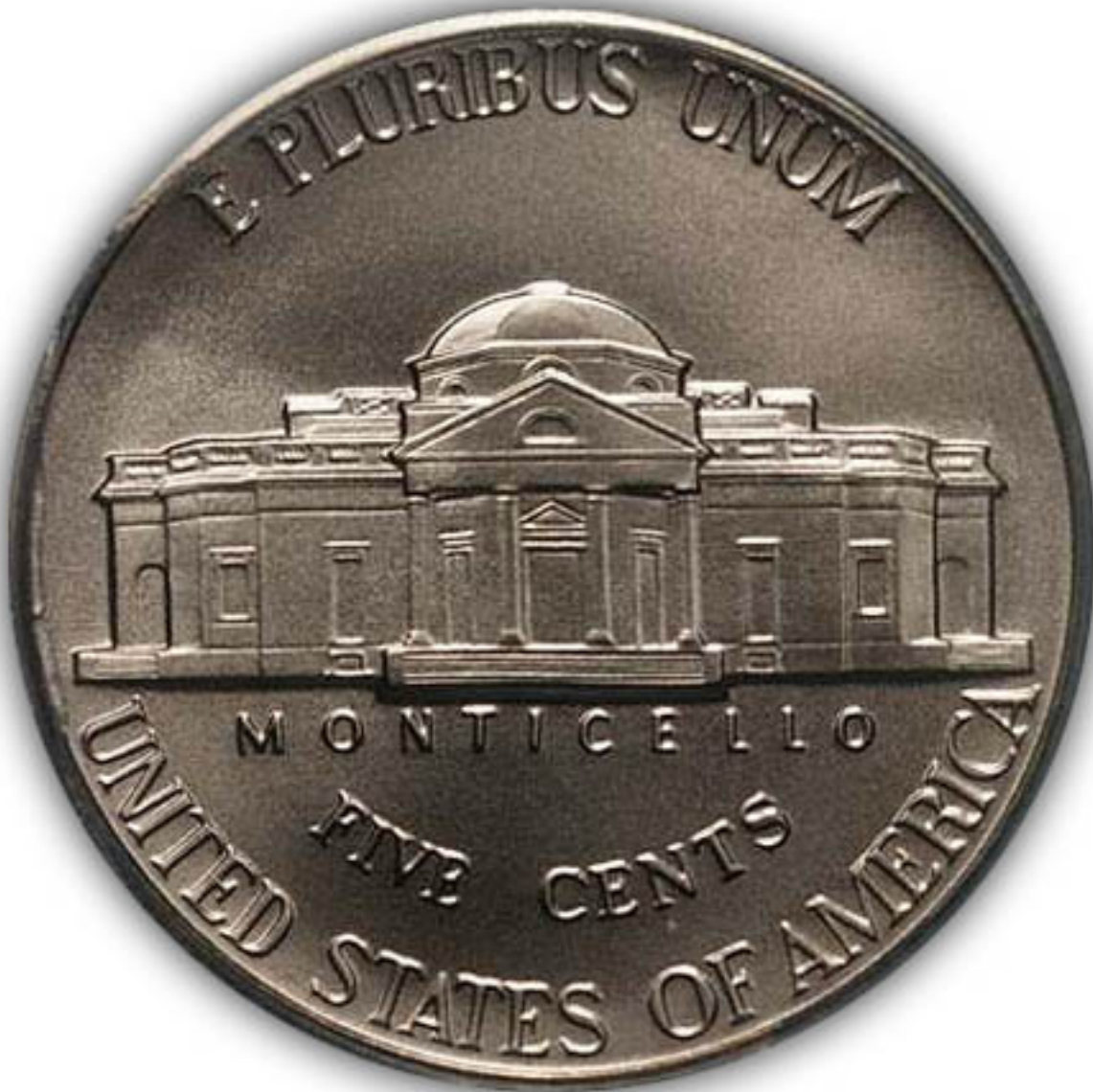






















































































































































































































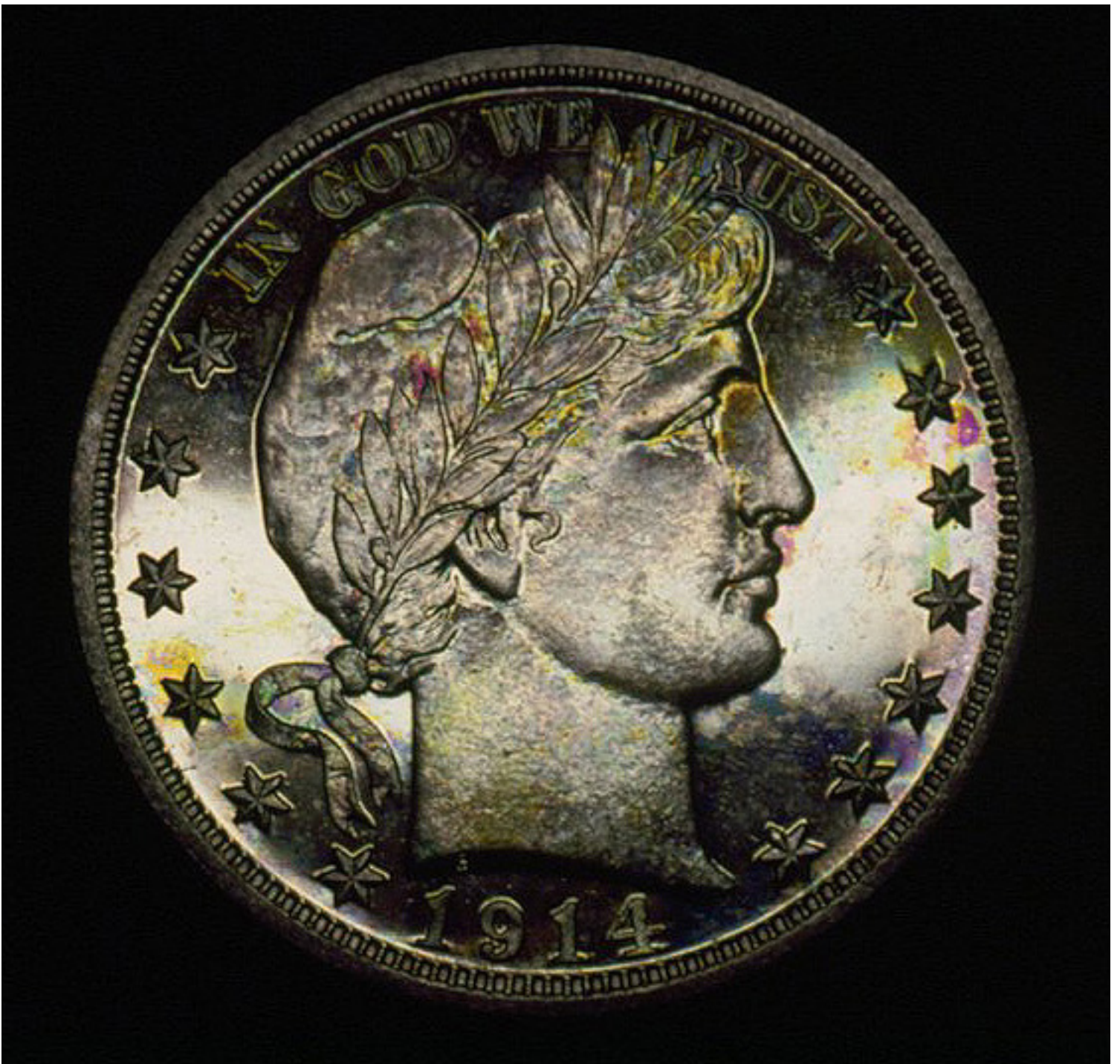












































1877

T\$1

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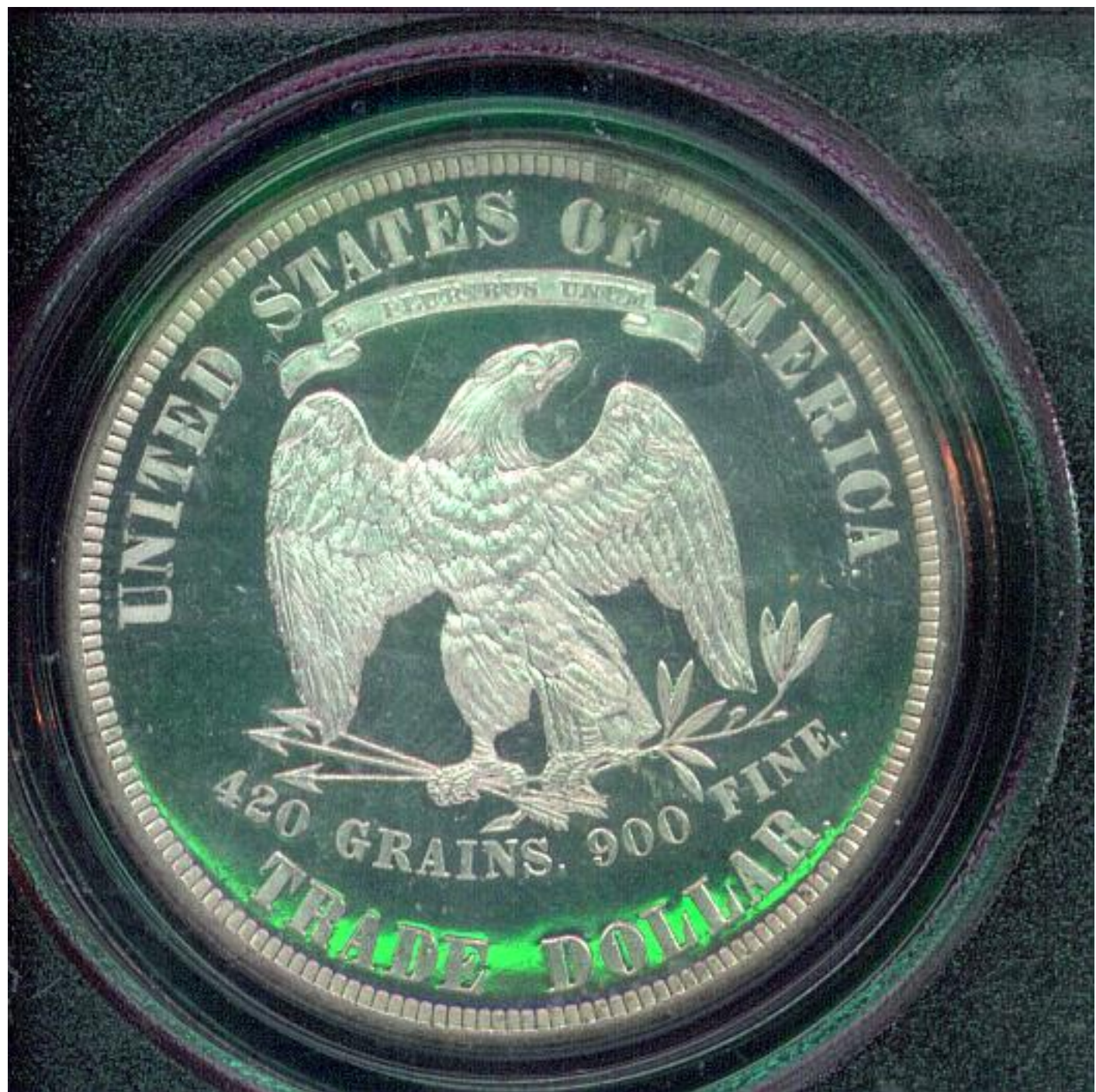
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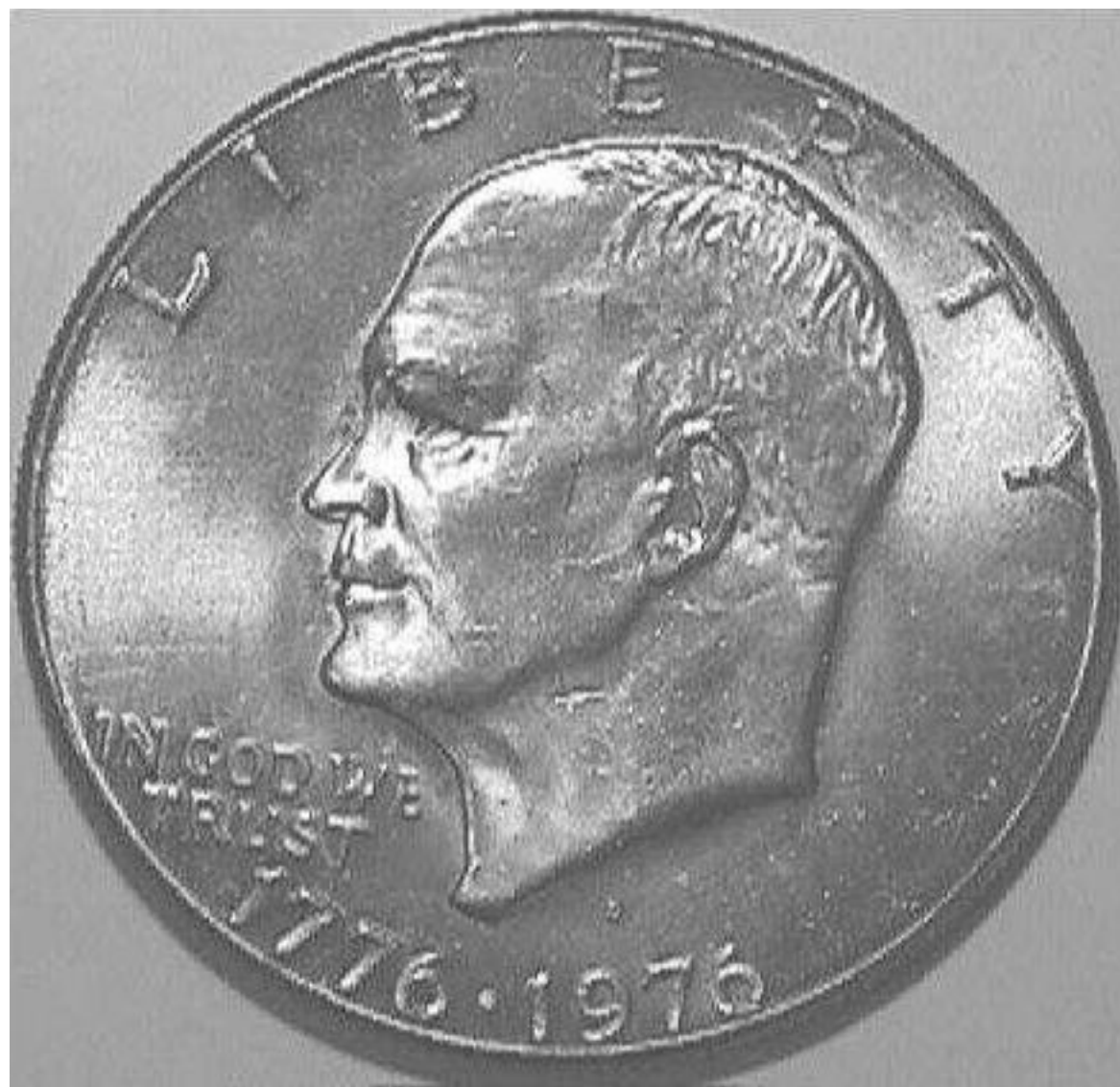




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Welcome to the John H. MacMillan Numismatic website. I collect U.S. type coins.

Type coin articles and coin image links

- 1) **[Building a type collection of circulating United States Coins by John H. MacMillan Ph.D.](#)**

An article on how to start and build a U.S. type collection

[PDF version of 1 above](#)

- 2) **[The same date, differing type method for collecting and showing U.S. type coins by John H. MacMillan Ph.D.](#)**

(new)

An article on a novel way to present numismatic and financial history to both numismatist and non collector in an interesting format.

[PDF version of 2 above](#)

- 3) **[Image Library of U.S. Type coins](#)**, These are not my own but found in various places on the internet. Enjoy!

- 4) **[Image Library of U.S. Hard Times tokens](#)**, These also are not my own but found in various places on the internet. Enjoy again!

- 5) **[Listing of U.S. type coins sorted by mintage](#)** . I think you will find this table very interesting if you are a type coin collector!

[PDF version of 5 above](#)

- 6) [Gold type coin mintages](#) in ascending order, the rarest is actually not the 1808 quarter eagle, but the 1796 no stars quarter eagle.

[PDF version of 6 above](#)

- 7) [Coin Today](#) Numismatic portal featuring comprehensive daily news and online resources including price guides and dealer directories.
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BUILDING A TYPE SET OF U.S. COINS

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[Complete Article](#) (PDF + webpage coin info!)

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BUILDING A TYPE SET OF U.S. COINS

John H. MacMillan Ph.D.

1) What is a type set?

A type set is generally defined as a collection that contains one, and only one, of each design for a series or complete coinage series. For example, a complete type set of 3 cent silver will be only 3 pieces while a complete type set of U.S. circulating coins would contain one of each design type from half cents through bullion platinum and from 1792 to the present. Major design types are usually supplemented with variations such as coins with and without arrows, rays, drapery or mottoes. A collector can decide which varieties to include as a matter of personal preference. This article is my attempt to share my experiences of collecting U.S. type coins. As a collector of moderate means I can give an overview of collecting strategies, pitfalls and guidelines for assembling a beautiful collection with annual expenditures of \$2000 or less. A collector has his entire life to enjoy this collecting specialty, so patience is required. I have collected for over 30 years and now have all but 2 types for the period 1834-present. A complete collection is impossible for all but the most wealthy so compromises and hard choices must be made. The article is broken into chapters for easy reading. I hope to convince you that type collecting is the most enjoyable specialty in U.S. coin collecting. The general principles elucidated here are also applicable to other specialties, such as commemoratives, ancients, hard times tokens and world coins.

2) Why collect by type?

Variety is the spice of life for the type collector. A date collector assembles one of each date and mintmark for a series such as Lincoln cents or silver dollars. A varieties collector may focus on minute die variations in large cents or half cents. Reasons to collect by type rather than the other methods include:

- a. A type collection shows all the designs of U.S. coinage, some designs being very beautiful. Such a collection if exhibited will be of greater appeal to non-collectors or beginners. Exotic denominations such as 2 cent pieces or \$2.50 gold usually elicit interest from the public. If you want to experience the complete panorama of U.S. coinage, from half cents to double eagles, a well-developed type collection will view as a breathtaking experience.
- b. A type collector with only moderate reading can gain a wide overview of the history of U.S. coinage, minting practices and reasons for design changes.
- c. A type collection is easy to start, as late 20th and 21st century designs are mostly cheap even in high grades (excepting gold and platinum bullion coins).

d. A type collection can be a store of value and even a good investment if choice problem free specimens of good eye appeal are obtained. What we mean by these terms will be elaborated on later.

3) Advantages and disadvantages of type collecting

Some of the advantages of type collecting have been mentioned in section 2 above. In addition some other advantages are:

Only moderate research is needed to get started. A copy of "The guidebook of U.S. coins" (Red Book) (~\$12.00) if bought and thumbed through will give a beginner a general overview. After common twentieth century types are acquired the collector can obtain more detailed texts such as Walter Breen's "Complete encyclopedia of U.S. Coins (~ \$75.00).

A type collector can pick up bargains in currently slow series such as 2 cent pieces or half dimes. Many low mintage dates in some series are available in extremely fine or higher conditions at moderate prices.

Some disadvantages include:

A type collector will not gain in depth knowledge of a particular series or denomination. He is a "jack of all trades, master of none".

Type collecting becomes, except for the wealthy, impossibly expensive for choice condition 18th and early nineteenth century issues, particularly gold coins. Even well worn "good" condition coins can run from \$500 up for most specimens. For even the wealthy the 1808 quarter eagle is a challenge, available infrequently at auctions. Choice reproductions of many 18th century coins are now available, manufactured by the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. These provide a beautiful and moderately priced alternative. This collector has filled many holes in this manner.

4) Major vs Minor design types

It is a matter of personal preference whether a type collector wishes to include only the major designs, the moderate variations present in the "Red Book", or even more subtle variations. This collector

personally adds different alloy variations as long as they are circulating coins, for example, 90% silver, 40% silver and clad Kennedy half dollars. In my opinion circulating commemoratives, such as the 1776-1976 bicentennial series and state quarters, and uncirculated bullion coins should be included. Non circulating silver proof or uncirculated general commemoratives should not. Whether modern uncirculated bullion coins should be included is again a matter of collector preference. While technically issued for circulation, of course they only circulate among bullion dealers and collectors.

Three U.S coins have always generated controversy as to whether they are patterns or struck for circulation. If patterns they are not to be represented in a type set of circulating U.S. coins. The questionable coins are described below, along with my opinion.

1. 1792 half disme. In my opinion it is a coin struck for circulation, as it was struck with existing mint equipment in a basement in Philadelphia during 1792 and released. Most specimens today are well worn, indicating extensive use by the public.
2. 1836-1838 Gobrecht dollars. Much confusion existed for many decades over these, as indeed many variations of patterns were struck. However mint records indicate that very small mintages, 1000 pieces or less, were issued as general releases in 1836 and 1838. Thus in my opinion it is a general issue. This issue presents a financial challenge. It is one of my missing coins, along with the 1907 Roman numeral high relief double eagle!
3. Four dollar gold pieces or "Stellas", are a "no brainer" as all were issued as patterns. Nonetheless many wealthy collectors include them, as the designs and denominations are quite unique.

5) The U.S. typeset list

This in my opinion is the complete type coin list for circulating U.S. Coins.

Half Cents

Flowing Hair 1793

Liberty Cap Large Head 1794

Liberty Cap Small Head 1795-1797

Draped Bust 1800-1808

Classic Head 1809-1835

Coronet Head 1840-1857

Large Cents

Chain 1793

Wreath 1793

Liberty Cap High Relief Large Head 1794

Liberty Cap Low Relief Small Head 1795-6

Draped Bust 1796-1807

Classic head 1808-1814

Coronet Head 1816-1839

Braided Hair 1840-1857

Small Cents

Flying Eagle 1857-1858

Indian CN 1859

Indian CN 1860-1863

Indian 1864-1909

Lincoln 1909 V.D.B.

Lincoln 1909-1958

Lincoln 1943 steel

Lincoln Memorial 1959-

Two-Cent Pieces 1864-1873

Silver Three Cent Pieces

Type 1 1851-1853

Type 2 1854-1858

Type 3 1859-1873

Nickel Three Cent Pieces 1865-1889

5 Cent Nickels

Shield-Rays 1866-1867

Shield-No Rays 1867-1883

Liberty Head NC 1883

Liberty Head WC 1883-1912

Buffalo Type 1 1913

Buffalo Type 2 1913-1938

Jefferson Wartime 1942-1945

Jefferson 1938-

Half Dimes

Half Disme 1792

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust SE 1796-1797

Draped Bust HE 1800-1805

Capped Bust 1829-1837

Liberty Seated-NS 1837-1838

Liberty Seated No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty Seated-Stars 1838-1859

Liberty Seated-Arrows 1853-1855

Liberty Seated-Legend 1860-1873

Dimes

Draped bust SE 1796-1797

Draped Bust HE 1798-1807

Capped Bust Large 1809-1828

Capped Bust Small 1828-1837

Liberty seated No Stars 1837-1838)

Liberty seated Stars 1838-1860

Liberty Seated No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty seated Arrows 1853-1855

Liberty seated Legend 1860-1891

Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1916

Mercury 1916-1945

Roosevelt 1946-1964 Silver

Roosevelt 1965- Clad

Twenty Cent Piece 1875-1878

Quarters

Draped bust SE 1796

Draped Bust HE 1804-1807

Large Bust 1815-1828

Small Bust 1831-1838

Liberty Seated No Motto No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty Seated No Motto with drapery 1838-1865

Liberty Seated A & R 1853

Liberty Seated Arrows 1854-1855

Liberty Seated with motto 1866-1891

Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1916

Standing liberty type 1 1916-1917

Standing liberty type 2 1917-1930

Washington 1932-1964

Washington Clad 1965-98

Bicentennial 1976 clad

Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

State quarters 1999 – clad

State quarters 1999 – 90% silver

Half Dollars

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust Small Eagle 1796-1797

Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle 1801-1807

Capped Bust 1807-1836

Capped Bust Reeded Edge 1836-1839

Liberty seated No motto No Drapery 1839

Liberty seated No Motto with drapery 1839-1866

Liberty seated Arrows and Rays 1853

Liberty seated Arrows 1854-1855

Liberty seated With Motto 1866-1891

Liberty seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1915

Liberty Walking 1916-1947

Franklin 1948-1963

Kennedy 1964 Silver

Kennedy 1965-70 40% silver

Kennedy 1971-Clad

Kennedy Bicentennial 1976 clad

Kennedy Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

Dollars

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1798

Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle 1798-1804

Gobrecht 1836-1839

Liberty Seated No Motto 1840-1866

Liberty seated With Motto 1866-1873

Trade Dollar 1873-1883

Morgan 1878-1921

Peace High Relief 1921

Peace 1922-1935

Eisenhower 1971-1978 clad

Eisenhower 1971-1978 40% silver

Eisenhower Bicentennial 1976 clad

Eisenhower Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

Susan B. Anthony 1979-1999

Sacagawea 2000-

Gold Dollars

Type 1 1849-1854

Type 2 1854-1856

Type 3 1856-1889

Quarter Eagles, \$2.50 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Right No stars 1796

Capped Bust Right 1796-1807

Capped Bust Left Large 1808

Capped Bust Left Small 1821-1827

Capped Bust Left Small 1829-1834

Classic Head 1834-1839

Liberty Coronet 1840-1907

Indian Head 1908-1929

Three Dollar Gold 1854-1889

Half Eagles, \$5.00 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1798

Capped Bust Large Eagle 1795-1807

Capped Draped Bust 1807-1812

Capped Head 1813-1834

Classic Head 1834-1838

Liberty Coronet No Motto 1839-1866

Liberty Coronet with Motto 1866-1908

Indian Head 1908-1929

Eagles, \$10.00 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1797

Capped Bust Large Eagle 1797-1804

Liberty Coronet No Motto 1838-1866

Liberty Coronet 1866-1907

Indian Head No Motto 1907-1908

Indian Head 1908-1933

Double Eagles, \$20.00 Gold Pieces

Liberty Coronet No Motto 1849-1866

Liberty Coronet (twenty D) 1866-1876

Liberty Coronet 1877-1907

Saint Gaudens Roman Numerals High relief 1907

Saint Gaudens No Motto 1907-1908

Saint Gaudens with motto 1907-1932

Bullion Coins

One ounce silver \$1.00 1986-

Tenth ounce gold \$5.00 1986-

Quarter ounce gold \$10.00 1986-

Half ounce gold \$25.00 1986-

One ounce gold \$50.00 1986-

Tenth ounce-one ounce platinum \$10.00-\$100.00 1997-

6) Getting started

Getting started as a type set collector is quite easy if one desires a set of circulating U.S. coins. One may pull nearly uncirculated examples from change and upgrade by ordering proof sets from the U.S. mint at less than \$20.00. As many state quarters are circulating, this phase can be quite a lot of fun for several months.

After the fun phase the new type collector can focus on earlier twentieth century issues. At this point his first buying decisions must be made. Should he buy uncirculated or proof walkers, standing quarters, buffalo nickels etc or settle for circulated grades? As a rule of thumb, this collector would advise that you proceed by acquiring the best grade you can afford, remembering to not show glaring grade discrepancies if you will exhibit. For example, a fine condition standing quarter will "stick out like a sore thumb" in a collection surrounded by about uncirculated or brilliant uncirculated quarters. Excluding Barber quarters, and gold coins, a twentieth century type collection should be assembled at a minimum of about uncirculated grade.

The second half of the nineteenth century will provide far more difficult grading and acquisition

decisions. Does the collector try for extremely fine as the minimum grade or very fine? Should he include all Red Book varieties, even more exotic variations such as the 1859 "hollow star" half dime, or only the major types? The financial resources of the collector, his preferences and patience, all will influence his decision. I would advise purchasing this fifty year period in a minimum of extremely fine grade, even if the acquisitions slow somewhat due to finances. After all, you have your entire life to collect, and attractive higher grade coins always bring more on resale.

The decisions become even more difficult for the first 50 years of the nineteenth century. Are "no drapery" versions of the seated half dimes through half dollars to be included? I believe they are significant variations and have included them in my set. Prices are quite reasonable for the no drapery series in very fine and extremely fine grade. Early gold coins from 1800-1833 are rare due to extensive melting, and are out of the price range of the average collector. I advise focusing on completing gold type from 1834 on in minimum of extremely fine grade. Certain early gold types are also available as legal reproductions (see section 13). An additional complication now arising is how to deal with poorly struck issues, such as 1808-1814 large cents and 1800-1805 half dimes /dimes. Well struck problem free examples of these series are rare and cost many multiples of average strikes. My usual advice not to buy weakly struck coins still applies here unless the collector is on a very tight budget. Costs rise dramatically in all series for about uncirculated grade and above. This collector has set a minimum grade of very fine for all coins of this period. As always you the collector must make your decisions based on "finances, preference and level of patience". Never buy "bright shiny" early copper or silver unless professionally certified, as cleaning is probable. A cleaned coin is a difficult sell later.

As has been mentioned earlier, choice eighteenth century type coins become nearly impossible for the moderate means collector. He may think that he must make difficult choices between obtaining extremely worn examples of many series (chain, wreath cents, early dimes) at greater than \$500, or acquiring choice specimens only after protracted savings plans. I solved this problem by obtaining a minimum of very fine grade for the type coins costing \$1000 or less. The remaining slots were partially filled with choice reproductions from the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. Vacant slots hopefully await further reproductions! Some discontinued GMM issues such as chain and wreath cents, have appreciated substantially in the open market. Nonetheless, several hundred dollars in my opinion is preferable to several thousand for barely discernable specimens.

7) Grading

The topic of grading will always bring controversy, but I will give brief guidelines.

- a. Buy a copy of "Photograde" by James F. Ruddy and study all the pictures. Read the fine print about idiosyncrasies in each series. Try to grade yourself all circulated type coins you view, as moderate means collectors will include many circulated coins in their type set.
- b. If you are uncomfortable grading yourself, buy only Professional Coin Grading Service or Numismatic Guarantee Corporation certified coins, even if they cost more. The old

cliches read true in coin collecting, "you get what you pay for" and "there is no Santa Claus in Numismatics". On eventual resale, a high percent recovery of cost, or even profit, is more probable for coins graded by these services.

c. Do not buy weakly struck coins, even if attractively priced. A weakly struck coin shows design obliteration only in specific areas, not on all, as is the case for a worn specimen. If you are unsure, pass on it.

d. If you do not like how a coin looks don't buy it, as others probably wont like it either.

e. View as many coins as possible in all series. Internet auctions such as E-bay, www.ebay.com, and Internet dealers on-line catalogs are great starters. Go to all local shows and scan the bourse floor! Learning to grade yourself before bidding is especially critical for internet auctions, as many coins offered there are grossly over graded.

8) Methods of procuring type coins

Viewing and obtaining coins has never been easier. On line auctions such as E-bay have brought coin bidding to our living rooms. In addition to the new internet method all classical methods retain their validity. This collector has bought by every method here.

a. Numismatic adds such as in Coin World.

b. Mail bid sales, also often in Coin World.

c. Local dealers shops

d. Live Auctions

e. Personal transactions. See if you have a local coin club for personal interactions with other collectors.

f. Fixed price lists Request to be on mailing lists by contacting dealers in numismatic publications.

g. Numismatic chat rooms on the internet.

9) Common versus scarce dates

Conventional wisdom states that a type collection should be filled with the most common

dates in order to easily obtain choice specimens at moderate cost. Contrarian arguments to this strategy are:

- a. Common dates of recent series may be un-saleable and will be lumped together and dumped wholesale on liquidation of the collection.
- b. Scarce dates in many series are available at the same price or moderate markups from prices of the most common dates. Examples abound in the gold series and nineteenth century liberty seated coinage. Study the prices and mintage figures in the "Red Book". A scarcer date for a type coin could wake up some day and bring you a profit!

10) Grading and grade matching

Some earlier comments should be repeated here. For example, a fine condition standing quarter will "stick out like a sore thumb" in a quarter type collection surrounded by about uncirculated or brilliant uncirculated examples. Try to have the coins on each side of your specimen in the type series be within one grade level. An aesthetically pleasing type coin exhibit, even if consisting of "middle" circulated grades, will be a source of satisfaction and pride for the type collector. If the type collector fills the late 18th century type coin examples with modern reproductions, such as those offered by the Gallery mint Museum(<http://www.coin-gallery.com/gmm/>), he must decide whether to buy proof or uncirculated versions. This collector prefers uncirculated pieces since in most cases they more closely resemble the early coins as first struck. The "Copy" designation is generally less obtrusive on the reverse. Grade matching will of course not work here if you also include some real 18th century type coins. My minimum recommended grades per 50 year increment are:

21st Century B.U. and Proof

20th century 1950-2000 B.U. and Proof

20th Century 1901-1949, A.U.

19th century 1850-1900 E.F.

19th century 1801-1849 Fine

18th Century V.G. (except for reproductions)

If you do not intent to exhibit these suggestions are less important.

11) Common Mistakes

I have made most of these mistakes myself. "Act in haste, repeat in leisure". I hope these lessons learned will help you.

a) Buying low grade coins to "quickly fill the holes" is always a mistake as low grade coins have poor eye appeal and have practically no resale value. If you are compulsive and impatient like me you can fall into this trap.

b) Not returning a coin with some problem as it is a "hassle" to repackage and mail. Believe me, it is a bigger hassle to be stuck with a doggy coin and face the necessity of upgrading it later. Ship it back to the dealer and don't look back!

c) Buying for profit. Type coin collecting is for fun, and a collection acquired over many years can sometimes but not always be sold for gain. Most circulated type coins bring only 30-60% of retail. If you seek profit from type collecting buy only P.C.G.S or N.G.C. certified coins in mint state 63 and higher. Even for these coins profit is not guaranteed. The coin market is extremely cyclical with constant switching of "hot" and "slow" series. An advantage for the type collector is his intrinsic diversification by possessing many different series.

d) Impulse buying. Always have a short list of coins you wish to add in the next several months, their range of conditions, and expected price ranges. If the next morning you have delayed sticker shock, return the coin immediately. Repenting is always in leisure.

e) Going off the track. If you wish to enjoy collecting to the fullest, you should focus on at most two collecting specialties at a time. Doing otherwise will squander money and time on what will look like a mishmash with no theme. This collector in addition to U.S. type coins also has a small collection of political hard times tokens.

12) Upgrading

In general, if you have the patience and discipline it is best to buy your type coin just once in a pleasing grade that shows all the design details. Buying lower grade coins to fill the holes was mentioned earlier as a mistake. When you upgrade you become saddled with a lower grade duplicate that you probably cannot sell at retail value or even cost. Thus you are paying more for the item in the long term. If you must upgrade, my general rule is that upgrading less than two full grade units is not worth it. For example upgrade a very fine coin to about uncirculated, a fine coin to extremely fine, etc. At least in this manner you will see a significant upgrade in eye appeal and detail, partially compensating for probable financial loss.

13) Reproductions

It was mentioned earlier that many early U.S. type coins are high priced even in low grades. It is a matter of collector preference if you wish to fill these holes with modern reproductions. All legitimate reproductions contain the word "copy" on obverse or reverse. This collector has been well satisfied with those manufactured by the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. They are made with close reproductions of original mint equipment and are quite attractive. I collect the uncirculated rather than the proof versions, as they more closely resemble the look of the original coins.

14) Spicing it up

In addition to the classic U.S. circulating type coin series many other interesting tokens or medals have actively circulated as money. Periods such as the financially tumultuous 1830s or civil war era saw Federal money disappear. Many private tokens actively circulated with political and patriotic themes or advertising. Prior to 1788 the states also legally could coin their own money. Such additions add breadth to the collection at moderate cost. Below is a list of potential candidates.

State half cent (only Massachusetts)

State cent (Ma, Ct, Ny or Vt)

Political Hard Times Token (1834-1844)

Half Cent Hard Times Token 1837

Store Card Hard Times Token (1834-1844)

Feuchtwanger cent 1837

Feuchtwanger three cent 1837 (a toughie)

Patriotic civil war token

Store card civil war token

Hobo Nickel (1930,s buffalo nickels, carved on obv to various portraits). Many modern reproductions exist. Do not pay over \$10.00 unless certified by a reputable specialist in this series!

Racketeer Nickel (1883 no cents nickel, gold plated to pass as \$5 gold piece). Comments same as for Hobo Nickel.

15) Managing your budget

Coin collecting can become addicting, and many collectors go over their budget on impulse purchases or spending sprees. It is imperative that you set a maximum amount you will be spend per month or year. This collector has found that on an amount of \$1500-\$2000 per year rapid progress is possible for several years, provided that the period is from 1850-present and the grades are extremely fine to proof. In today's age this amount of money could be spent on a single computer or set of golf clubs! The collectors advantage is that the collection will at least give a partial return of his money in the future, as compared to other items that depreciate to zero.

16) What's the point of it?

Collectors, whether of coins, stamps, antiques, dolls or whatever, seem to have a natural affinity for acquiring, cataloging and striving to complete groups of items.

As stated earlier, collecting by design type is a life long pursuit for most collectors unless they are quite comfortable financially. For most people, the "thrill of the chase" and the satisfaction on obtaining a new choice item are the principle rewards. Completion will actually lead to apathy and lack of collecting purpose for many. When additions slow as the collection becomes more advanced, many collectors such as this author turn to

numismatic education or writing to keep the thrill of involvement. If you are just beginning there will be many years of acquisitions, searching and enjoyment for you before reaching this point.

17) Storing your type coins

Storing coins is indeed a problem. The collector must not use PVC (polyvinyl chloride).

Plasticiser and chlorine in this plastic will corrode the surface of coins, particularly copper.

Also avoid "cellulose" or "nitrocellulose" plastics as they can evolve corrosive nitric acid.

Use polyethylene film based cardboard holders, polyethylene terphthalate (PET) flips or Mylar. Solid Lucite holders are also acceptable.

Proof sets prior to 1955 came packaged in "boxes" with coins in degradable plastic pouches (cellulosic?). They all should be re-housed in suitable flips or Lucite. Proof sets from 1955-1964 are housed in polyethylene and seem to hold up well over the years. Re-house only for exhibiting purposes.

Certified coins and modern proof sets are generally housed in non corroding plastic, but all holders are permeable to corrosive gases such as hydrogen sulfide or sulfur dioxide. Store your coins in a dry secure (bank vault) environment with "sulfur scavengers" i.e. silver impregnated paper, in the vault if possible for added protection.

Avoid storage by wrapping the coin in Aluminum foil. While effective in preventing tarnish, the aluminum can leave hairline scratches, particularly on proof coins.

How does the type collector detect corrosive chlorine? Run the "**Beilstein**" test.

Take a piece of copper wire and heat it in the blue flame of a gas stove, Bunsen burner or acetylene torch until it glows red. then place the hot wire on a tiny piece of the plastic (the plastic will melt on the copper). Place the plastic/copper melt back in the flame. If the flame turns green or "azure", deep blue/purple, after the initial yellow burn, the plastic has chlorine. If only yellow is seen your flip is chlorine free and probably acceptable. Copper chloride formed in the flame is responsible for the distinctive color.

No paper envelopes can be trusted to be sulfur free. Sulfur tarnishes silver, nickel and copper coins.

Susan Maltby at sue@toronto.icomos.org, is a Toronto based conservationist and coin

storage expert that can add much more detail to the background information above. She is a regular columnist in Coin World, www.coinworld.com.

18) Exhibiting your Type Collection

After several years of active collecting, many type collectors will feel the urge to exhibit their collection. Reasons to exhibit can include one of three common motives.

a) **Personal Pleasure.** Many collectors want to observe their coins in a pleasing logical format. Many standard "type coin" panels are commercially available. They will include the standard types and may not include minor types of interest to you. If you are willing to limit yourself to the common types, the "**Kingsword Series**" type coin holders, available from Bowers and Merena Galleries, Woolfeboro New.Hampshire, are an excellent choice. Collectors of moderate means can expect to fill all the "holes" in these panels, including gold, from 1834 to the present, with two exceptions, the Gobrecht dollars of 1836-1839 and the 1907 high relief Saint Gaudens double eagle.

b) **To interest family members or friends.** If your goal is to have an interesting conversation piece for viewing by family or friends the commercial holders may not be the best choice. Non collectors are most interested by gold coins and odd or strange denominations such as two cent pieces, half cents or quarter eagles. The type collector must then customize the exhibit for his audience. To do this effectively he will need to prepare his own holders, including background and text. An excellent article detailing the best methods to do this is:

Carlton, R. Scott, "The Art and Science of Numismatic Exhibiting", The Numismatist, April, 1990, p550.

c) **Professional Exhibiting.** The serious type collector may want to exhibit at a local, regional or national convention. Prizes are awarded and the exhibits judged. In this environment, aesthetics of the exhibit, novelty of theme, high coin grade and completeness are critical. Scott Carlton's article cited above will again give many valuable pointers.

Themes: Creative type collectors can devise many themes of great interest to the general public. Novel themes are also more likely to win prizes at numismatic conventions. While the possible themes are limited only by imagination, below are listed possible theme exhibits likely to spark non-collector interest.

a) **Odd denominations.** Half cent, Large cent, two cent piece, three cent silver, three cent nickel, half dime, twenty cent piece, gold dollar, quarter eagle, three dollar gold piece.

b) **Pairs**, differing design types of a denomination struck in the same year. They are:

1793 chain, wreath and liberty cap cents (Use Gallery Mint Museum Reproductions!).

1857 large cent, flying eagle cent

1909 indian, lincoln cents

1883 shield, liberty nickels

1938 buffalo, Jefferson nickels

1837 capped bust, liberty seated half dimes

1837 capped bust, liberty seated dimes

1916 Barber, mercury dimes

1838 capped bust, liberty seated quarters

1916 Barber, standing liberty quarters (tough)

1807 draped bust, capped bust half dollars

1839 capped bust, liberty seated half dollars

1921 Morgan, peace dollars

1854 type one, type two gold dollars

1856 type two, type three gold dollars

1795 small eagle, heraldic eagle \$5.00 gold (very tough)

1834 capped head to left, classic head \$5.00 gold (very tough)

1908 coronet, indian \$5.00 gold

1797 small eagle, heraldic eagle \$10.00 gold (very tough)

1907 coronet, indian \$10.00 gold

1907 liberty, Saint Gaudens \$20.00 gold

c) **Confusing or inconvenient denominations**

half cent (too big, too little purchasing power, even in 19th century)

large cent (too big)

three cent silver (too small, easily lost)

1883 "no cents" nickel (same size as \$5.00 gold piece, gold plated and passed as half eagle)

Twenty cent piece (confused with quarter)

One dollar gold piece, type one (too small, easily lost)

Susan B. Anthony dollar (confused with quarter)

Themes which could be a hit with judges at convention exhibits include:

a) **Rarest date in series shown for each design type** (example, 1916 shown for standing liberty quarter type one). Obviously this is an expensive theme for type collectors of financial means.

b) **First date for type shown** (examples, 1892 for Barber series of dimes, quarters and half dollars).

c) **Last date of type shown**, (examples, 1915 for Barber series)

I have merely touched on some of the innovative ways that the collector can exhibit his type collection. The creative collector should be able to design many other interesting themes.

19) Final Thoughts

I hope this article will get you as enthusiastic as I am about U.S. type collecting. My initial interest in coins was kindled as a boy when my grandfather gave me old worn large cents and indian cents on summer visits. On his passing he left me several gold coins which are still in my collection. They were my cornerstones to collecting enjoyment. If you start with modern U.S. coins, they are a great cornerstone too. Good luck in your collecting endeavors.

20) Bibliography

All coin collectors should have a numismatic library for reference and research. Below are my selections. Of course each collector will find different books of interest. In my opinion, Breen's massive work, Bowers book on design types, the "Red Book" and "Photograde" are musts for type collectors. They are highlighted in bold.

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posted 3/14/05

Wisconsin quarter dollars with odd markings on the reverse continue to surface, as specialists offer varying opinions on the cause of the raised lines some call "leaves." At issue: were the lines added deliberately or were they random damage to the dies?



- [Opinions continue to vary on cause of odd marks on Wisconsin quarters](#)
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- [Prices rising for Wisconsin quarters](#)

Beginner's Workshop...**[Added Mint marks - Crooks have used several alteration methods](#)**

posted 5/10/05

Two coins might be identical except that one possesses a Mint mark and thus is worth many times the coin lacking one. Before buying, be sure that the Mint mark on that coin you want is the real deal.

***State Quarters...*****[Mapping progress - Excitement overshadows soggy weather at Minnesota quarter launch ceremony](#)**

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A New Jersey school teacher encourages her students to be the first to bring each new State quarter dollar by placing them in a map album.

**[First Reports for Minnesota state quarters](#)**May 12, 2005
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BUILDING A TYPE SET OF U.S. COINS

John H. MacMillan Ph.D.

1) What is a type set?

A type set is generally defined as a collection that contains one, and only one, of each design for a series or complete coinage series. For example, a complete type set of 3 cent silver will be only 3 pieces while a complete type set of U.S. circulating coins would contain one of each design type from half cents through bullion platinum and from 1792 to the present. Major design types are usually supplemented with variations such as coins with and without arrows, rays, drapery or mottoes. A collector can decide which varieties to include as a matter of personal preference. This article is my attempt to share my experiences of collecting U.S. type coins. As a collector of moderate means I can give an overview of collecting strategies, pitfalls and guidelines for assembling a beautiful collection with annual expenditures of \$2000 or less. A collector has his entire life to enjoy this collecting specialty, so patience is required. I have collected for over 30 years and now have all but 2 types for the period 1834-present. A complete collection is impossible for all but the most wealthy so compromises and hard choices must be made. The article is broken into chapters for easy reading. I hope to convince you that type collecting is the most enjoyable specialty in U.S. coin collecting. The general principles elucidated here are also applicable to other specialties, such as commemoratives, ancients, hard times tokens and world coins.

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2. Why collect by type?

Variety is the spice of life for the type collector. A date collector assembles one of each date and mint mark for a series such as Lincoln cents or silver dollars. A varieties collector may focus on minute die variations in large cents or half cents. Reasons to collect by type rather than the other methods include:

- a. A type collection shows all the designs of U.S. coinage, some designs being very beautiful. Such a collection if exhibited will be of greater appeal to non collectors or beginners. Exotic denominations such as 2 cent pieces or \$2.50 gold usually elicit interest from the public. If you want to experience the complete panorama of U.S. coinage, from half cents to double eagles, a well developed type collection will view as a breathtaking experience.
- b. A type collector with only moderate reading can gain a wide overview of the history of U.S. coinage, minting practices and reasons for design changes.
- c. A type collection is easy to start, as late 20th and 21st century designs (excepting gold and platinum bullion issues) are mostly cheap even in high grades.
- d. A type collection can be a store of value and even a good investment if choice problem free specimens of good eye appeal are obtained. What we mean by these terms will be elaborated on later.

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3. **Advantages and disadvantages of type collecting**

Some of the advantages of type collecting have been mentioned in section 2 above. In addition some other advantages are:

Only moderate research is needed to get started. A copy of "The guidebook of U.S. coins" (Red Book) (~\$12.00) if bought and thumbed through will give a beginner a general overview. After common twentieth century types are acquired the collector can obtain more detailed texts such as Walter Breen's "complete encyclopedia of U.S. Coins(~ \$75.00)

A type collector can pick up bargains in currently slow series such as 2 cent pieces or half dimes. Many low mintage dates in some series are available in extremely fine or higher conditions at moderate prices.

Some disadvantages include:

A type collector will not gain in depth knowledge of a particular series or denomination. He is a "jack of all trades, master of none".

Type collecting becomes, except for the wealthy, impossibly expensive for choice condition 18th and early nineteenth century issues, particularly gold coins. Even well worn "good" conditions can run from \$500 up for most specimens. For even the wealthy the 1808 quarter eagle is a challenge, available infrequently at auctions. Choice reproductions of many 18th century coins are now available, manufactured by the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. These provide a beautiful and moderately priced alternative. This collector has filled many holes in this manner.

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4. Major vs Minor design types

It is a matter of personal preference whether a type collector wishes to include only the major designs, the moderate variations present in the "Red Book", or even more subtle variations. This collector personally adds different alloy variations as long as they are circulating coins, for example, 90% silver, 40% silver and clad Kennedy half dollars. In my opinion circulating commemoratives, such as the 1776-1976 bicentennial series and state quarters, and uncirculated bullion coins should be included. Non circulating silver proof or uncirculated general commemoratives should not. Whether modern uncirculated bullion coins should be included is again a matter of collector preference. While technically issued for circulation, of course they only circulate among bullion dealers and collectors.

Three U.S coins have always generated controversy as to whether they are patterns or struck for circulation. If patterns they are not to be represented in a type set of circulating U.S. coins. The questionable coins are described below, along with my opinion.

1. 1792 half dime. In my opinion it is a coin struck for circulation , as it was struck with existing mint equipment in a basement in Philadelphia during 1792 and released . Most specimens today are well worn, indicating extensive use by the public.
2. 1836-1838 Gobrecht dollars. Much confusion existed for many decades over these, as indeed many variations of patterns were struck. However mint records indicate that very small mintages, 1000 pieces or less, were issued as general releases in 1836 and 1838. Thus in my opinion it is a general issue. This issue presents a financial challenge. It is one of my missing coins, along with the 1907 roman numeral high relief double eagle!
3. Four dollar gold pieces or "Stellas", are a "no brainer" as all were issued as patterns. Nonetheless many wealthy collectors include them, as the designs and denominations are quite unique.

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The U.S. type set list

This in my opinion is the complete type coin list for circulating U.S. Coins.

Half Cents

Flowing Hair 1793

Liberty Cap Large
Head 1794

Liberty Cap Small
Head 1795-1797

Draped Bust 1800-1808

Classic Head 1809-1835

Coronet Head 1840-1857

Large Cents

Chain 1793

Wreath 1793

Liberty Cap High Relief Large Head 1794

Liberty Cap Low Relief Small Head 1795-6

Draped Bust 1796-1807

Classic head 1808-1814

Coronet Head 1816-1839

Braided Hair 1840-1857

Small Cents

Flying Eagle 1857-1858

Indian CN 1859

Indian CN 1860-1863

Indian 1864-1909

Lincoln 1909 V.D.B.

Lincoln 1909-1958

Lincoln 1943 steel

Lincoln Memorial 1959-

Two-Cent Pieces 1864-1873**Silver Three Cent Pieces**

Type 1 1851-1853

Type 2 1854-1858

Type 3 1859-1873

Nickel Three Cent Pieces 1865-1889**5 Cent Nickels**

Shield-Rays 1866-1867

Shield-No Rays 1867-1883

Liberty Head NC 1883

Liberty Head WC 1883-1912

Buffalo Type 1 1913

Buffalo Type 2 1913-1938

Jefferson Wartime 1942-1945

Jefferson 1938-

Half Dimes

Half Dime 1792

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust SE 1796-1797

Draped Bust HE 1800-1805

Capped Bust 1829-1837

Liberty Seated-NS 1837-1838

Liberty Seated No
Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty Seated-Stars 1838-1859

Liberty Seated-Arrows 1853-1855

Liberty Seated-Legend 1860-1873

Dimes

Draped bust SE 1796-1797

Draped Bust HE 1798-1807

Capped Bust Large 1809-1828

Capped Bust Small
1828-1837

Liberty seated No Stars 1837-1838)

Liberty seated Stars 1838-1860

Liberty Seated No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty seated Arrows 1853-1855

Liberty seated Legend 1860-1891

Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1916

Mercury 1916-1945

Roosevelt 1946-1964 Silver

Roosevelt 1965- Clad

Twenty Cent Piece 1875-1878

Quarters

Draped bust SE 1796

Draped Bust HE 1804-1807

Large Bust 1815-1828

Small Bust 1831-1838

Liberty Seated No Motto No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty Seated No Motto with drapery 1838-1865

Liberty Seated A & R 1853

Liberty Seated Arrows 1854-1855

Liberty Seated with motto 1866-1891

Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1916

Standing liberty type 1 1916-1917

Standing liberty type 2 1917-1930

Washington 1932-1964

Washington Clad 1965-98

Bicentennial 1976 clad

Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

State quarters 1999 –clad

State quarters 1999- 90% silver

Half Dollars

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust Small Eagle 1796-1797

Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle 1801-1807

Capped Bust 1807-1836

Capped Bust Reeded Edge 1836-1839

Liberty seated No motto No Drapery 1839

Liberty seated No Motto with drapery 1839-1866

Liberty seated Arrows and Rays 1853

Liberty seated Arrows 1854-1855

Liberty seated With Motto 1866-1891

Liberty seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1915

Liberty Walking 1916-1947

Franklin 1948-1963

Kennedy 1964, Silver

Kennedy 1965-70 40% silver

Kennedy 1971-Clad

Kennedy Bicentennial 1976 clad

Kennedy Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

Dollars

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1798

Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle 1798-1804

Gobrecht 1836-1839

Liberty Seated No Motto 1840-1866

Liberty seated With Motto 1866-1873

Trade Dollar 1873-1883

Morgan 1878-1921

Peace High Relief 1921

Peace 1922-1935

Eisenhower 1971-1978 clad

Eisenhower 1971-1978 40% silver

Eisenhower Bicentennial 1976 clad

Eisenhower Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

Susan B. Anthony 1979-1999

Sacagawea 2000-

Gold Dollars

Type 1 1849-1854

Type 2 1854-1856

Type 3 1856-1889

Quarter Eagles, \$2.50 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Right No stars 1796

Capped Bust Right 1796-1807

Capped Bust Left Large 1808

Capped Bust Left Small 1821-1827

Capped Bust Left Small 1829-1834

Classic Head 1834-1839

Liberty Coronet 1840-1907

Indian Head 1908-1929

Three Dollar Gold 1854-1889

Half Eagles, \$5.00 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Small
Eagle 1795-1798

Capped Bust Large
Eagle 1795-1807

Capped Draped Bust 1807-1812

Capped Head 1813-
1834

Classic Head 1834-
1838

Liberty Coronet No
Motto 1839-1866

Liberty Coronet with
Motto 1866-1908

Indian Head 1908-
1929

Eagles, \$10.00 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Small
Eagle 1795-1797

Capped Bust Large
Eagle 1797-1804

Liberty Coronet No
Motto 1838-1866

Liberty Coronet
1866-1907

Indian Head No
Motto 1907-1908

Indian Head 1908-
1933

Double Eagles, \$20.00 Gold Pieces

Liberty Coronet No
Motto 1849-1866

Liberty Coronet (twenty D) 1866-1876

Liberty Coronet
1877-1907

Saint Gaudens
Roman Numerals
High relief 1907

Saint Gaudens No
Motto 1907-1908

Saint Gaudens with

motto 1907-1932

Bullion Coins

One ounce silver \$1.00 1986-

Tenth ounce gold
\$5.00 1986-

Quarter ounce gold
\$10.00 1986-

Half ounce gold
\$25.00 1986-

One ounce gold \$50.00 1986-

Tenth ounce-one ounce platinum \$10.00-\$100.00 1997-

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6. Getting started

Getting started as a type set collector is quite easy if one desires a set of circulating U.S. coins. One may pull nearly uncirculated examples from change and upgrade by ordering proof sets from the U.S. mint at less than \$20.00. As many state quarters are circulating, this phase can be quite a lot of fun for several months.

After the initial fun phase the new type collector can focus on earlier twentieth century issues. At this point his first buying decisions must be made. Should he buy uncirculated or proof walkers, standing quarters, buffalo nickels etc or settle for circulated grades? As a rule of thumb, this collector would advise that you proceed by acquiring the best grade you can afford, remembering to not show glaring grade discrepancies if you will exhibit. For example, a fine condition standing quarter will "stick out like a sore thumb" in a collection surrounded by about uncirculated or brilliant uncirculated quarters. Excluding Barber quarters, and gold coins, a twentieth century type collection should be assembled at a minimum of about uncirculated grade.

The second half of the nineteenth century will provide far more difficult grading and acquisition decisions. Does the collector try for extremely fine as the minimum grade or very fine? Should he include all Red Book varieties, even more exotic variations such as the 1859 "hollow star" half dime, or only the major types? The financial resources of the collector, his preferences and patience, all will influence his decision. I would advise purchasing this fifty year period in a minimum of extremely fine grade, even if the acquisitions slow somewhat due to finances. After all, you have your entire life to collect, and attractive higher grade coins always bring more on resale.

The decisions become even more difficult for the first 50 years of the nineteenth century. Are "no drapery" versions of the seated half dimes through half dollars to be included? I believe they are significant variations and have included them in my set. Prices are quite reasonable for the no drapery series in very fine and extremely fine grade. Early gold coins from 1800-1833 are rare due to extensive melting, and are out of the price range of the average collector. I advise focusing on completing gold type from 1834 on in minimum of extremely fine grade. Certain early gold types are also available as legal reproductions (see section 13). An additional complication now arising is how to deal with poorly struck issues, such as 1808-1814 large cents and 1800-1805 half dimes /dimes. Well struck problem free examples of these series are rare and cost many multiples of average strikes. My usual advice not to buy weakly struck coins still applies here unless the collector is on a very tight budget. Costs rise dramatically in all series for about uncirculated grade and above. This collector has set a minimum grade of very fine for all coins of this period. As always you the collector must make your decisions based on "finances, preference and level of patience". Never buy "bright shiny" early copper or silver unless professionally certified, as cleaning is probable. A cleaned coin is a difficult sell later.

As has been mentioned earlier, choice eighteenth century type coins become nearly impossible for the

moderate means collector. He may think that he must make difficult choices between obtaining extremely worn examples of many series (chain, wreath cents, early dimes) at greater than \$500, or acquiring choice specimens only after protracted savings plans. I solved this problem by obtaining a minimum of very fine grade for the type coins costing \$1000 or less. The remaining slots were partially filled with choice reproductions from the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. Vacant slots hopefully await further reproductions! Some discontinued GMM issues such as chain and wreath cents, have appreciated substantially in the open market. Nonetheless, several hundred dollars in my opinion is preferable to several thousand for barely discernable specimens.

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7. Grading

The topic of grading will always bring controversy, but I will give brief guidelines.

a. Buy a copy of "Photograde" by James F. Ruddy and study all the pictures. Read the fine print about idiosyncrasies in each series. Try to grade yourself all circulated type coins you view , as moderate means collectors will include many circulated coins in their type set.

b. If you are uncomfortable grading yourself, buy only Professional Coin Grading Service or Numismatic Guarantee Corporation certified coins, even if they cost more. The old cliches read true in coin collecting, "you get what you pay for" and "there is no Santa Claus in Numismatics". On eventual resale, a high percent recovery of cost, or even profit, is more probable for coins graded by these services.

c. Do not buy weakly struck coins, even if attractively priced. A weakly struck coin shows design obliteration only in specific areas, not on all as is the case for a worn specimen. If you are unsure, pass on it.

d. If you do not like how a coin looks don't buy it, as others probably wont like it either.

e. View as many coins as possible in all series. Internet auctions such as E-bay, www.ebay.com , and internet dealers on-line catalogs are great starters. Go to all local shows and scan the bourse floor! Learning to grade yourself before bidding is especially critical for internet auctions, as many coins offered there are grossly over graded.

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8. **Methods of procuring type coins**

Viewing and obtaining coins has never been easier. On line auctions such as E-bay have brought coin bidding to our living rooms. In addition to the new internet method all classical methods retain their validity. This collector has bought by every method here.

- a. Numismatic adds such as in Coin World.
- b. Mail bid sales, also often in Coin World.
- c. Local Dealers Shops
- d. Live Auction
- e. Personal transactions, see if you have a local coin club for personal interaction.
- f. Fixed price lists, request to be on mailing lists by contacting dealers in numismatic publications.
- g. Numismatic chat rooms on the internet.

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9. Common versus scarce dates

Conventional wisdom states that a type collection should be filled with the most common dates in order to easily obtain choice specimens at moderate cost. Contrarian arguments to this strategy are:

- a. Common dates of recent series may be un-saleable and will be lumped together and dumped wholesale on liquidation of the collection.
- b. Scarce dates in many series are available at the same price or moderate markups from prices of the most common dates. Examples abound in the gold series and nineteenth century liberty seated coinage. Study the prices and mintage figures in the "Red Book". A scarcer date for a type coin could wake up some day and bring you a profit!

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10) Grading and grade matching

Some earlier comments should be repeated here. For example, a fine condition standing quarter will "stick out like a sore thumb" in a quarter type collection surrounded by about uncirculated or brilliant uncirculated examples. Try to have the coins on each side of your specimen in the type series be within one grade level. An aesthetically pleasing type coin exhibit, even if consisting of "middle" circulated grades, will be a source of satisfaction and pride for the type collector. If the type collector fills the late 18th century type coin examples with modern reproductions, such as those offered by the Gallery mint Museum(<http://www.coin-gallery.com/gmm/>), he must decide whether to buy proof or uncirculated versions. This collector prefers uncirculated pieces since in most cases they more closely resemble the early coins as first struck. The "Copy" designation is generally less obtrusive on the reverse. Grade matching will of course not work here if you also include some real 18th century type coins. My **minimum** recommended grades per 50 year increment are:

21st Century B.U. and Proof

20th century 1950-2000 B.U. and Proof

20th Century 1901-1949, A.U.

19th century 1850-1900 E.F.

19th century 1801-1849 Fine

18th Century V.G. (except for reproductions)

If you do not intent to exhibit these suggestions are less important.

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11. Common Mistakes

I have made most of these mistakes myself. "Act in haste, repeat in leisure". I hope these lessons learned will help you.

- a) Buying low grade coins to "quickly fill the holes" is always a mistake as low grade coins have poor eye appeal and have practically no resale value. If you are compulsive and impatient like me you can fall into this trap.
- b) Not returning a coin with some problem as it is a "hassle" to repackage and mail. Believe me, it is a bigger hassle to be stuck with a doggy coin and face the necessity of upgrading it later. Ship it back to the dealer and don't look back!
- c) Buying for profit. Type coin collecting is for fun, and a collection acquired over many years can sometimes but not always be sold for gain. Most circulated type coins bring only 30-60% of retail. If you seek profit from type collecting buy only P.C.G.S or N.G.C. certified coins in mint state 63 and higher. Even for these coins profit is not guaranteed. The coin market is extremely cyclical with constant switching of "hot" and "slow" series. An advantage for the type collector is his intrinsic diversification by possessing many different series.
- d) Impulse buying. Always have a short list of coins you wish to add in the next several months, their range of conditions, and expected price ranges. If the next morning you have delayed sticker shock, return the coin immediately. Repenting is always in leisure.
- e) Going off the track. If you wish to enjoy collecting to the fullest, you should focus on at most two collecting specialties at a time. Doing otherwise will squander money and time on what will look like a mishmash with no theme. This collector in addition to U.S. type coins also has a small collection of political hard times tokens.

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12)Upgrading

In general, if you have the patience and discipline it is best to buy your type coin **just once in a pleasing grade that shows all the design details**. Buying lower grade coins to fill the holes was mentioned earlier as a mistake. When you upgrade you become saddled with a lower grade duplicate that you probably cannot sell at retail value or even cost. Thus you are paying more for the item in the long term. If you must upgrade, my general rule is that upgrading less than two full grade units is not worth it. For example upgrade a very fine coin to about uncirculated, a fine coin to extremely fine, etc. At least in this manner you will see a significant upgrade in eye appeal and detail, partially compensating for probable financial loss.

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13) Reproductions

It was mentioned earlier that many early U.S. type coins are high priced even in low grades. It is a matter of collector preference if you wish to fill these holes with modern reproductions. All legitimate reproductions contain the word "copy" on obverse or reverse. This collector has been well satisfied with those manufactured by the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. They are made with close reproductions of original mint equipment and are quite attractive. I collect the uncirculated rather than the proof versions, as they more closely resemble the look of the original coins.

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14) Spicing it up

In addition to the classic U.S. circulating type coin series many other interesting tokens or medals have actively circulated as money. Periods such as the financially tumultuous 1830s or civil war era saw Federal money disappear. Many private tokens actively circulated with political and patriotic themes or advertising. Prior to 1788 the states also legally could coin their own money. Such additions add breadth to the collection at moderate cost. Below is a list of potential candidates.

State half cent (only Massachusetts)

State cent (Ma, Ct, Ny or Vt)

Half Cent Hard Times Token (1837)

Cent Size Political Hard Times Token (1834-1844)

Store Card Hard Times Token (1834-1844)

Feuchtwanger cent 1837

Feuchtwanger three cent 1837 (a toughie)

Patriotic civil war token

Store card civil war token

Hobo Nickel (1930,s buffalo nickels, carved on obv to various portraits). Many modern reproductions exist. Do not pay over \$10.00 unless certified by a reputable specialist in this series!

Racketeer Nickel (1883 no cents nickel, gold plated to pass as \$5 gold piece). Comments same as for Hobo Nickel.

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15) Managing your budget

Coin collecting can become addicting, and many collectors go over their budget on impulse purchases or spending sprees. It is imperative that you set a maximum amount you will be spend per month or year. This collector has found that on an amount of \$1500-\$2000 per year rapid progress is possible for several years provided that the period is from 1850-present and the grades are extremely fine to proof. In today's age this amount of money could be spent on a single computer or set of golf clubs! The collectors advantage is that the collection will at least give a partial return of his money in the future, as compared to other items that depreciate to zero.

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16)What's the point of it?

Collectors, whether of coins, stamps, antiques, dolls or whatever, seem to have a natural affinity for acquiring, cataloguing and striving to complete groups of items.

As stated earlier, collecting by design type is a life long pursuit for most collectors unless they are quite comfortable financially. For most people, the "thrill of the chase" and the satisfaction on obtaining a new choice item are the principle rewards. Completion will actually lead to apathy and lack of collecting purpose for many. When additions slow as the collection becomes more advanced, many collectors such as this author turn to Numismatic education or writing to keep the thrill of involvement. If you are just beginning there will be many years of acquisitions, searching and enjoyment for you before reaching this point.

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17) Storing your type coins

Storing coins is indeed a problem. The collector must not use PVC(polyvinyl chloride) flips.

Plasticiser and chlorine in this plastic will corrode the surface of coins, particularly copper.

Also avoid "cellulose" or "nitrocellulose" plastics as they can evolve corrosive nitric acid.

Use polyethylene film based cardboard holders, polyethylene terphthalate(PET) flips or mylar. Solid Lucite holders are also acceptable.

Proof sets prior to 1955 are packaged in "boxes" with coins in degradable plastic pouches (cellulosic?). They all should be re-housed in suitable flips or Lucite. Proof sets from 1955-1964 are housed in polyethylene and seem to hold up well over the years. Re-house only for exhibiting purposes.

Certified coins and modern proof sets are generally housed in non corroding plastic, but all holders are permeable to corrosive gases such as hydrogen sulfide or sulfur dioxide. Store your coins in a dry secure (bank vault) environment with "sulfur scavengers" i.e. silver impregnated paper, in the vault if possible for added protection.

Avoid storage by wrapping the coin in Aluminum foil. While effective in preventing tarnish, the aluminum can leave hairline scratches, particularly on proof coins.

How does the type collector detect corrosive chlorine? Run the "**Beilstein**" test.

Take a piece of copper wire and heat it in the blue flame of a gas stove, bunsen burner or acetylene torch until it glows red. then place the hot wire on a tiny piece of the plastic (the plastic will melt on the copper). Place

the plastic/copper melt back in the flame. If the flame turns green or "azure", deep blue/purple, after the initial yellow burn, the plastic has chlorine. If only yellow is seen your flip is chlorine free and probably acceptable.

Copper chloride formed in the flame is responsible for the distinctive color.

No paper envelopes can be trusted to be sulfur free. Sulfur tarnishes silver, nickel and copper coins.

Susan Maltby sue@toronto.icomos.org, is a Toronto based conservationist and coin storage expert that can add much more detail to the background information above. She is a regular columnist in Coin World, www.coinworld.com .

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18) Exhibiting your Type Collection

After several years of active collecting, many type collectors will feel the urge to exhibit their collection. Reasons to exhibit can include one of three common motives.

a) **Personal Pleasure.** Many collectors want to observe their coins in a pleasing logical format. Many standard "type coin" panels are commercially available. They will include the standard types and may not include minor types of interest to you. If you are willing to limit yourself to the common types, the "**Kingsword Series**" type coin holders, available from Bowers and Merena Galleries, Woolfeboro New.Hampshire, are an excellent choice. Collectors of moderate means can expect to fill all the "holes" in these panels, including gold, from 1834 to the present, with two exceptions, the Gobrecht dollars of 1836-1839 and the 1907 high relief Saint Gaudens double eagle.

b) **To interest family members or friends.** If your goal is to have an interesting conversation piece for viewing by family or friends the commercial holders may not be the best choice. Non collectors are most interested by gold coins and odd or strange denominations such as two cent pieces, half cents or quarter eagles. The type collector must then customize the exhibit for his audience. To do this effectively he will need to prepare his own holders, including background and text. An excellent article detailing the best methods to do this is:

Carlton, R. Scott, "The Art and Science of Numismatic Exhibiting", The Numismatist, April, 1990, p550.

c) **Professional Exhibiting.** The serious type collector may want to exhibit at a local, regional or national convention. Prizes are awarded and the exhibits judged. In this environment, aesthetics of the exhibit, novelty of theme, high coin grade and completeness are critical. Scott Carlton's article cited above will again give many valuable pointers.

Themes: Creative type collectors can devise many themes of great interest to the general public. Novel themes are also more likely to win prizes at numismatic conventions. While the possible themes are limited only by imagination, below are listed possible theme exhibits likely to spark non-collector interest.

a) **Odd denominations.** Half cent, Large cent, two cent piece, three cent silver, three cent nickel, half dime, twenty cent piece, gold dollar, quarter eagle, three dollar gold piece.

b) **Pairs**, differing design types of a denomination struck in the same year. They are:

1793 chain, wreath and liberty cap cents (Use Gallery Mint Museum Reproductions!).

1857 large cent, flying eagle cent

1909 indian, lincoln cents

1883 shield, liberty nickels

1938 buffalo, Jefferson nickels

1837 capped bust, liberty seated half dimes

1837 capped bust, liberty seated dimes

1916 Barber, mercury dimes

1838 capped bust, liberty seated quarters

1916 Barber, standing liberty quarters (tough)

1807 draped bust, capped bust half dollars

1839 capped bust, liberty seated half dollars

1921 Morgan, peace dollars

1854 type one, type two gold dollars

1856 type two, type three gold dollars

1795 small eagle, heraldic eagle \$5.00 gold (very tough)

1834 capped head to left, classic head \$5.00 gold (very tough)

1908 coronet, indian \$5.00 gold

1797 small eagle, heraldic eagle \$10.00 gold (very tough)

1907 coronet, indian \$10.00 gold

1907 liberty, Saint Gaudens \$20.00 gold

c) Confusing or inconvenient denominations

half cent (too big, too little purchasing power, even in 19th century)

large cent (too big)

three cent silver (too small, easily lost)

1883 "no cents" nickel (same size as \$5.00 gold piece, gold plated and passed as half eagle)

Twenty cent piece (confused with quarter)

One dollar gold piece, type one (too small, easily lost)

Susan B. Anthony dollar (confused with quarter)

Themes which could be a hit with judges at convention exhibits include:

- a) **Rarest date in series shown for each design type** (example, 1916 shown for standing liberty quarter type one). Obviously this is an expensive theme for type collectors of financial means.
- b) **First date for type shown** (examples, 1892 for Barber series of dimes, quarters and half dollars).
- c) **Last date of type shown**, (examples, 1915 for Barber series)

I have merely touched on some of the innovative ways that the collector can exhibit his type collection. The creative collector should be able to design many other interesting themes.

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19) Final Thoughts

I hope this article will get you as enthusiastic as I am about U.S. type collecting. My initial interest in coins was kindled as a boy when my grandfather gave me old worn large cents and indian cents on summer visits. On his passing he left me several gold coins which are still in my collection. They were my cornerstone to collecting enjoyment. If you start with modern U.S. coins, they are a great cornerstone too. Good luck in your collecting endeavors

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20) Bibliography

All coin collectors should have a numismatic library for reference and research. Below are my selections. Of course each collector will find different books of interest. In my opinion, Breen's massive work, Bowers book on design types, the "Red Book" and "Photograde" are musts for type collectors. They are highlighted in bold.

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The "same date, differing type"(transition year), method for collecting and showing U.S. type coins

By John H. MacMillan Ph.D.

A type set is generally defined as a collection that contains one, and only one, of each design for a series or complete coinage series. For example, a complete type set of 3 cent silver will be only 3 pieces while a complete type set of U.S. circulating coins would contain one of each design type from half cents through bullion platinum and from 1792 to the present. Major design types are usually supplemented with variations such as coins with and without arrows, rays, drapery or mottoes. A collector can decide which varieties to include as a matter of personal preference. Many collectors further fine tune their set by including only certain date or mint mark variations. Some of the most common are:

- a. Collecting the first date of a type series if there are multiple dates, for example 1932 for a silver washington quarter and 1965 for a clad washington quarter. Of interest to serious collectors but not an eye catcher for

a novice or non collector. There is historical significance for serious collectors.
- b. Collecting the last date of a type series if there are multiple dates, for example 1916 for a Barber quarter and 1930 for a standing liberty quarter. Comments as in a) above.
- c. Collecting only dates from a certain mint, D,O CC etc. This option will not be available for every type series and again does not give a novice or non collector any additional stimulation to collect. Obvious historical significance for serious collectors.
- d. Collecting the rarest date in a type series. An alternative for well to do collectors only. An example would be a 1916-D to illustrate the mercury dime or a 1877 to illustrate an indian cent! This is a good option to interest novices and non collectors, as they will be intrigued by the value of rare items. Not of great historical interest.
- e. Collecting important dates in a person,s life, birthdays, anniversaries etc (limited to 20th or 21st century for most!). Of historical interest only to the collector, not other collectors or the general public.

Another method in which both much historical information, and an illustration of the magnitude of the design modifications can be combined in a pleasing fashion to numismatic novices is to show, side by side, cases where both the old and new type were issued in one date year. In these transition years both the old and new type were manufactured for general circulation. Many historical and numismatic facts can be illustrated in showing same date coins from these

transition years together. For example, a 1916 Barber quarter, paired with a 1916 standing liberty quarter, with mintage figures shown below the coins, illustrates the new, very radical design of the Standing quarter, contrasted with the staid Barber series. The mintages suggest to us the reality that the low mintage standing quarter was issued late in the calendar year. Examples of the dual type or "twin" types abound in the U.S. series. Even some "triplets" (3 types in one year) exist. Of course, "quintets" exist for the entire state quarter series. A good name for this variation of type collecting is hard to come by. "Same date" type collecting or "transition year" type collecting are possibilities.

I have identified three major and one minor categories for displaying twin or higher same date type coin displays.

CATEGORY A , SAME DENOMINATION, TWO OR MORE MAJOR DESIGN TYPES, SAME YEAR,

In this category, the same "denomination", such as a large cent or three cent silver is shown in two types with the same issue date. A 1938-D buffalo nickel paired with a 1938 Jefferson nickel is a category A. They could be categorized as "twins" (non identical obviously) or a "transition year pair".

CATEGORY B, SAME DESIGN TYPE, SAME YEAR, DIFFERENT ALLOY

In this category, the same type, such as a indian cent with shield reverse, was issued with differing alloys in the same year, in this case 1864, where both copper nickel and bronze versions were issued. Sometimes an interesting story accompanies this change, such as in 1982 when a perceived impending copper price explosion prompted the government to change alloys "mid stream" during the calendar year.

SUB CATEGORY AB, DIFFERENT DESIGN TYPE, SAME YEAR, DIFFERENT ALLOY

These are category A where the alloy was also changed in the transition year. With the exception of the state quarter series, the alloy changes were minor. As examples one set is a 1937 capped bust half dime in 0.8924 silver paired with a 1837 liberty seated no stars half dime in 0.900 silver, while another is a 1834 capped half eagle in 0.9167 gold paired with a 1834 classic head half eagle in 0.8992 gold. These small alloy changes are not visible to the eye, so they will not interest non collectors. However the reasons behind the change can be of interest to collectors and historians. The 1834 alloy changes were to lower the gold content so as to prevent melting. The "old tenor" capped head gold pieces had gold content greater than face value.

CATEGORY C , DIFFERENT DENOMINATION, SAME FACE VALUE, SAME YEAR

This category is admittedly stretching the concept a bit. A collector can illustrate, side by side, totally differing denominations with the same face value, such as a Morgan Dollar, trade dollar and Gold dollar from the same year. While obviously of interest to novices and non collectors, the displays also can illustrate major financial policies and political struggles of bygone eras. What "crazy" government financial policies or politics could prompt the U.S. mint to issue three radically different "dollar" coins in the same year during periods of the nineteenth century? Many other twin or triplet displays of category C have tales to tell.

Below I have tabulated examples of these three categories that can be dug out of the standard "Red Book" of U.S. Coins by R.S. Yeoman. Sub category AB is noted in the table for category A except for the state quarters, which are more appropriate listed in category B. Obviously not all different types have same date examples, but in those instances that a pairing or higher is possible such a display is an interesting and crowd pleasing method of conveying numismatic and financial history. For those multitype denominations where no date overlap between types occurs, pairing the last date of the older type with the first date of the new type is a logical alternative. If the dates are contiguous the display is still visually appealing. For example in the half dollar type series, a 1915 Barber half (any mint) would be matched with a 1916 (any mint) liberty walking half dollar.

U.S. CIRCULATING TYPE COINS WITH MORE THAN ONE DESIGN TYPE OR ALLOY MINTED WITH THE SAME DATE

CATEGORY A , SAME DENOMINATION, TWO MAJOR TYPES, SAME YEAR

<u>DENOMINATION</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>TYPE</u>		<u>MULTIPLICITY</u>
LARGE CENT	1793	CHAIN		TRIPLETS
LARGE CENT	1793	WREATH		
LARGE CENT	1793	LIBERTY CAP		
LARGE CENT	1793-5	LIBERTY CAP	LETTERED EDGE	TWINS
LARGE CENT	1793-5	LIBERTY CAP	PLAIN EDGE	
LARGE CENT	1835	MATRON HEAD		TWINS
LARGE CENT	1835	YOUNG HEAD		
CENT	1909	INDIAN		TRIPLETS
CENT	1909	LINCOLN	V.D.B.	
CENT	1909	LINCOLN	NO V.D.B.	
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	RAYS	TWINS
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	NO RAYS	
NICKEL	1883	SHIELD		TRIPLETS
NICKEL	1883	LIBERTY	TYPE 1	
NICKEL	1883	LIBERTY	TYPE 2	

NICKEL	1913	BUFFALO	TYPE 1	TWINS
NICKEL	1913	BUFFALO	TYPE 2	
NICKEL	1913	LIBERTY*		OR TRIPLETS
		*UNAUTHORIZED ISSUE		
NICKEL	1938-D	BUFFALO		TWINS
NICKEL	1938	JEFFERSON		
NICKEL	2004	PEACE		TWINS
NICKEL	2004	KEELBOAT		
NICKEL	2005	BISON		
NICKEL	2005	OCEAN IN	VIEW	TWINS
HALF DIME	1837	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
HALF DIME	1837	L.S. NO STARS	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
HALF DIME	1838-O	L.S. NO STARS		TWINS
HALF DIME	1838	STARS	NO DRAPERY	
DIME	1837	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
DIME	1837	L.S. NO STARS	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
DIME	1838-O	L.S. NO STARS		TWINS
DIME	1838	STARS		
DIME	1853	NO ARROWS		TWINS
DIME	1853	ARROWS		
DIME	1860-S	STARS OBV		TWINS
DIME	1860 OR O	LEGEND OBV		
DIME	1916 OR S	BARBER		TWINS
DIME	1916 PDS	MERCURY		

QUARTER	1838	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
QUARTER	1838	L.S. NO STARS	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
QUARTER	1853	L.S.	NO MOTTO	TWINS
QUARTER	1853,O	L.S.	ARROWS	
QUARTER	1873	WITH MOTTO		TWINS
QUARTER	1873	ARROWS		
QUARTER	1916,D	BARBER		TWINS
QUARTER	1916	LIBERTY	STANDING	
QUARTER	1917,D,S	STANDING LIBERTY	NO STARS	TWINS
QUARTER	1917,D,S	STANDING LIBERTY	STARS	
QUARTERS	1999-2008	STATE		QUINTUPLETS
HALF	1807	DRAPED BUST		TWINS
HALF	1807	CAPPED BUST		
HALF	1836	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
HALF	1836	REEDED EDGE	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
HALF	1839-O	REEDED EDGE	"HALF DOL"	TRIPLETS
HALF	1839	L.S.	NO DRAPERY	
HALF	1839	L.S.	DRAPERY	
HALF	1853-O	L.S.	NO MOTTO	TWINS
HALF	1853,O	L.S. ARROWS	AND RAYS	
HALF	1873, CC	MOTTO		TWINS
HALF	1873, CC	ARROWS		
SILVER DOLLAR	1795	FLOWING	HAIR	TWINS

SILVER DOLLAR	1795	DRAPED BUST	SMALL EAGLE	
SILVER DOLLAR	1798	SMALL EAGLE		TWINS
SILVER DOLLAR	1798	HERALDIC	EAGLE	
SILVER DOLLAR	1921	MORGAN		TWINS
SILVER DOLLAR	1921	PEACE	HIGH RELIEF	
SILVER DOLLAR	1922	PEACE	HIGH RELIEF	TWINS
SILVER DOLLAR	1922	PEACE	LOW RELIEF	
GOLD DOLLAR	1854-D-S	TYPE 1		TWINS
GOLD DOLLAR	1854	TYPE 2		
GOLD DOLLAR	1856-S	TYPE 2		TWINS
GOLD DOLLAR	1856,D	TYPE 3		
QUARTER EAGLE	1796	STARS		TWINS
QUARTER EAGLE	1796	NO STARS		
QUARTER EAGLE	1834	CAPPED BUST	0.9167 GOLD	TWINS
QUARTER EAGLE	1834	CLASSIC HEAD NO MOTTO	0.900 GOLD	SUBCATEGORY AB
HALF EAGLE	1795	SMALL EAGLE		TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1795	HERALDIC	EAGLE	
HALF EAGLE	1807	CAPPED BUST	TO RIGHT	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1807	CAPPED BUST	TO LEFT	
HALF EAGLE	1829	CAPPED, HEAD	LEFT, LARGE	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1829	CAPPED, HEAD	LEFT, SMALL	
HALF EAGLE	1834	CAPPED, HEAD LEFT, SMALL	0.9167 GOLD	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1834	CLASSIC HEAD	0.900 GOLD	SUBCATEGORY AB

HALF EAGLE	1866-S	CORONET	NO MOTTO	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1866,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
HALF EAGLE	1908	CORONET	MOTTO	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1908	INDIAN HEAD		
EAGLE	1797	SMALL EAGLE		TWINS
EAGLE	1797	LARGE EAGLE		
EAGLE	1866-S	CORONET	NO MOTTO	TWINS
EAGLE	1866,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
EAGLE	1907,D,S	CORONET	MOTTO	TWINS
EAGLE	1907	INDIAN HEAD	NO MOTTO	
EAGLE	1908,D	INDIAN HEAD	NO MOTTO	TWINS
EAGLE	1908,D,S	INDIAN HEAD	WITH MOTTO	
DOUBLE EAGLE	1866-S	CORONET	NO MOTTO	TWINS
DOUBLE EAGLE	1866,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
DOUBLE EAGLE	1907,D,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
DOUBLE EAGLE	1907	ST GAUDENS	R.N. HIGH RELIEF	TRIPLETS
DOUBLE EAGLE	1907	ST GAUDENS	ARABIC, LOW RELIEF	

CATEGORY B, SAME DESIGN TYPE, SAME YEAR, DIFFERENT ALLOY

CENT	1864 INDIAN	BRONZE	TWINS	
CENT	1864 INDIAN	COPPER NICKEL		
CENT	1943-PDS	LINCOLN	STEEL	TWINS
CENT	1943-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER*	
			* PLANCHET	

ERROR				
CENT	1974-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER	TWINS
CENT	1974	LINCOLN	ALUMINUM *	
			* = PATTERN	
CENT	1982-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER	TWINS
CENT	1982-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER PLATED ZINC	
NICKEL	1942	JEFFERSON	NICKEL	TWINS
NICKEL	1942	JEFFERSON	SILVER	
DIME	1992-DATE	ROOSEVELT	CLAD	TWINS
DIME	1992-DATE	ROOSEVELT	90% SILVER	
QUARTER	1776-1976,D	IKE	COPPER NICKEL	TWINS
QUARTER	1776-1976,D	IKE	SILVER CLAD	
QUARTER	1992-8-S	WASHINGTON	CLAD	TWINS
QUARTER	1992-8-S	WASHINGTON	90% SILVER	
QUARTERS	1999-2008	STATE	CLAD	TWINS
QUARTERS	1999-2008	STATE	90% SILVER	ALSO CATEGORY AB
HALF	1776-1976	KENNEDY	CLAD	TWINS
HALF	1776-1976	KENNEDY	SILVER CLAD	
HALF	1992-DATE	KENNEDY	CLAD	TWINS
HALF	1992-DATE	KENNEDY	90% SILVER	
DOLLAR	1971-4-S	IKE	CLAD	TWINS
DOLLAR	1971-4-S	IKE	SILVER CLAD	

DOLLAR	1776-1976-D-S	IKE	CLAD	TWINS
DOLLAR	1776-1976-D-S	IKE	SILVER CLAD	
DOLLAR	2000	SACAGAWEA	MANGANESE	TWINS
DOLLAR	2000	SACAGAWEA	GOLD*	
* = PATTERN				
<u>CATEGORY C , DIFFERENT DENOMINATION, SAME FACE VALUE, SAME YEAR</u>				
LARGE CENT	1856-7	CORONET		TWINS
SMALL CENT	1856-7	FLYING EAGLE		
3 CENT SILVER	1865-73	TYPE 3		TWINS
3-CENT NICKEL	1865-73	LIBERTY		
HALF DIME	1866	L.S.	LEGEND OBV	TWINS
NICKEL	1866	SHIELD	RAYS	
HALF DIME	1867	L.S.	LEGEND OBV	
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	RAYS	TRIPLETS
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	NO RAYS	
HALF DIME	1868-73	L.S.	LEGEND OBV	TWINS
NICKEL	1868-73	SHIELD	NO RAYS	
SILVER DOLLAR	1849-1854	L.S.	NO MOTTO	TWINS
GOLD DOLLAR	1849-1854-S	TYPE 1		
SILVER DOLLAR	1873,CC,S	L.S.	MOTTO	
TRADE DOLLAR	1873,CC,S	LIBERTY		TRIPLETS
GOLD DOLLAR	1873	TYPE 3		
SILVER DOLLAR	1878-1885	MORGAN		
TRADE DOLLAR	1878-1885	LIBERTY		TRIPLETS
GOLD DOLLAR	1878-1885	TYPE 3		
SILVER DOLLAR	1878-1889	MORGAN		TWINS

GOLD DOLLAR

1878-1889

TYPE 3

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The "same date, differing type"(transition year), method for collecting and showing U.S. type coins

By John H. MacMillan Ph.D.

A type set is generally defined as a collection that contains one, and only one, of each design for a series or complete coinage series. For example, a complete type set of 3 cent silver will be only 3 pieces while a complete type set of U.S. circulating coins would contain one of each design type from half cents through bullion platinum and from 1792 to the present. Major design types are usually supplemented with variations such as coins with and without arrows, rays, drapery or mottoes. A collector can decide which varieties to include as a matter of personal preference. Many collectors further fine tune their set by including only certain date or mint mark variations. Some of the most common are:

- a. Collecting the first date of a type series if there are multiple dates, for example 1932 for a silver washington quarter and 1965 for a clad washington quarter. Of interest to serious collectors but not an eye catcher for a novice or non collector. There is historical significance for serious collectors.
- b. Collecting the last date of a type series if there are multiple dates, for example 1916 for a Barber quarter and 1930 for a standing liberty quarter. Comments as in a) above.
- c. Collecting only dates from a certain mint, D,O CC etc. This option will not be available for every type series and again does not give a novice or non collector any additional stimulation to collect. Obvious historical significance for serious collectors.
- d. Collecting the rarest date in a type series. An alternative for well to do collectors only. An example would be a 1916-D to illustrate the mercury dime or a 1877 to illustrate an indian cent! This is a good option to interest novices and non collectors, as they will be intrigued by the value of rare items. Not of great historical interest.
- e. Collecting important dates in a person,s life, birthdays, anniversaries etc (limited to 20th or 21st century for most!). Of historical interest only to the collector, not other collectors or the general public.

Another method in which both much historical information, and an illustration of the magnitude of the design modifications can be combined in a pleasing fashion to numismatic novices is to show, side by side, cases where both the old and new type were issued in one date year. In these transition years both the old and new type were manufactured for general circulation. Many historical and numismatic facts can be illustrated in showing same date coins from these

transition years together. For example, a 1916 Barber quarter, paired with a 1916 standing liberty quarter, with mintage figures shown below the coins, illustrates the new, very radical design of the Standing quarter, contrasted with the staid Barber series. The mintages suggest to us the reality that the low mintage standing quarter was issued late in the calendar year. Examples of the dual type or "twin" types abound in the U.S. series. Even some "triplets" (3 types in one year) exist. Of course, "quintets" exist for the entire state quarter series. A good name for this variation of type collecting is hard to come by. "Same date" type collecting or "transition year" type collecting are possibilities.

I have identified three major and one minor categories for displaying twin or higher same date type coin displays.

CATEGORY A , SAME DENOMINATION, TWO OR MORE MAJOR DESIGN TYPES, SAME YEAR,

In this category, the same "denomination", such as a large cent or three cent silver is shown in two types with the same issue date. A 1938-D buffalo nickel paired with a 1938 Jefferson nickel is a category A. They could be categorized as "twins" (non identical obviously) or a "transition year pair".

CATEGORY B, SAME DESIGN TYPE, SAME YEAR, DIFFERENT ALLOY

In this category, the same type, such as a indian cent with shield reverse, was issued with differing alloys in the same year, in this case 1864, where both copper nickel and bronze versions were issued. Sometimes an interesting story accompanies this change, such as in 1982 when a perceived impending copper price explosion prompted the government to change alloys "mid stream" during the calendar year.

SUB CATEGORY AB, DIFFERENT DESIGN TYPE, SAME YEAR, DIFFERENT ALLOY

These are category A where the alloy was also changed in the transition year. With the exception of the state quarter series, the alloy changes were minor. As examples one set is a 1937 capped bust half dime in 0.8924 silver paired with a 1837 liberty seated no stars half dime in 0.900 silver, while another is a 1834 capped half eagle in 0.9167 gold paired with a 1834 classic head half eagle in 0.8992 gold. These small alloy changes are not visible to the eye, so they will not interest non collectors. However the reasons behind the change can be of interest to collectors and historians. The 1834 alloy changes were to lower the gold content so as to prevent melting. The "old tenor" capped head gold pieces had gold content greater than face value.

CATEGORY C , DIFFERENT DENOMINATION, SAME FACE VALUE, SAME YEAR

This category is admittedly stretching the concept a bit. A collector can illustrate, side by side, totally differing denominations with the same face value, such as a Morgan Dollar, trade dollar and Gold dollar from the same year. While obviously of interest to novices and non collectors, the displays also can illustrate major financial policies and political struggles of bygone eras. What "crazy" government financial policies or politics could prompt the U.S. mint to issue three radically different "dollar" coins in the same year during periods of the nineteenth century? Many other twin or triplet displays of category C have tales to tell.

Below I have tabulated examples of these three categories that can be dug out of the standard "Red Book" of U.S. Coins by R.S. Yeoman. Sub category AB is noted in the table for category A except for the state quarters, which are more appropriate listed in category B. Obviously not all different types have same date examples, but in those instances that a pairing or higher is possible such a display is an interesting and crowd pleasing method of conveying numismatic and financial history. For those multitype denominations where no date overlap between types occurs, pairing the last date of the older type with the first date of the new type is a logical alternative. If the dates are contiguous the display is still visually appealing. For example in the half dollar type series, a 1915 Barber half (any mint) would be matched with a 1916 (any mint) liberty walking half dollar.

U.S. CIRCULATING TYPE COINS WITH MORE THAN ONE DESIGN TYPE OR ALLOY MINTED WITH THE SAME DATE

CATEGORY A , SAME DENOMINATION, TWO MAJOR TYPES, SAME YEAR

<u>DENOMINATION</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>TYPE</u>		<u>MULTIPLICITY</u>
LARGE CENT	1793	CHAIN		TRIPLETS
LARGE CENT	1793	WREATH		
LARGE CENT	1793	LIBERTY CAP		
LARGE CENT	1793-5	LIBERTY CAP	LETTERED EDGE	TWINS
LARGE CENT	1793-5	LIBERTY CAP	PLAIN EDGE	
LARGE CENT	1835	MATRON HEAD		TWINS
LARGE CENT	1835	YOUNG HEAD		
CENT	1909	INDIAN		TRIPLETS
CENT	1909	LINCOLN	V.D.B.	
CENT	1909	LINCOLN	NO V.D.B.	
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	RAYS	TWINS
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	NO RAYS	
NICKEL	1883	SHIELD		TRIPLETS
NICKEL	1883	LIBERTY	TYPE 1	
NICKEL	1883	LIBERTY	TYPE 2	

NICKEL	1913	BUFFALO	TYPE 1	TWINS
NICKEL	1913	BUFFALO	TYPE 2	
NICKEL	1913	LIBERTY*		OR TRIPLETS
		*UNAUTHORIZED ISSUE		
NICKEL	1938-D	BUFFALO		TWINS
NICKEL	1938	JEFFERSON		
NICKEL	2004	PEACE		TWINS
NICKEL	2004	KEELBOAT		
NICKEL	2005	BISON		
NICKEL	2005	OCEAN IN	VIEW	TWINS
HALF DIME	1837	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
HALF DIME	1837	L.S. NO STARS	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
HALF DIME	1838-O	L.S. NO STARS		TWINS
HALF DIME	1838	STARS	NO DRAPERY	
DIME	1837	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
DIME	1837	L.S. NO STARS	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
DIME	1838-O	L.S. NO STARS		TWINS
DIME	1838	STARS		
DIME	1853	NO ARROWS		TWINS
DIME	1853	ARROWS		
DIME	1860-S	STARS OBV		TWINS
DIME	1860 OR O	LEGEND OBV		
DIME	1916 OR S	BARBER		TWINS
DIME	1916 PDS	MERCURY		

QUARTER	1838	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
QUARTER	1838	L.S. NO STARS	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
QUARTER	1853	L.S.	NO MOTTO	TWINS
QUARTER	1853,O	L.S.	ARROWS	
QUARTER	1873	WITH MOTTO		TWINS
QUARTER	1873	ARROWS		
QUARTER	1916,D	BARBER		TWINS
QUARTER	1916	LIBERTY	STANDING	
QUARTER	1917,D,S	STANDING LIBERTY	NO STARS	TWINS
QUARTER	1917,D,S	STANDING LIBERTY	STARS	
QUARTERS	1999-2008	STATE		QUINTUPLETS
HALF	1807	DRAPED BUST		TWINS
HALF	1807	CAPPED BUST		
HALF	1836	CAPPED BUST	0.8924 silver	TWINS
HALF	1836	REEDED EDGE	0.9000 silver	SUBCATEGORY AB
HALF	1839-O	REEDED EDGE	"HALF DOL"	TRIPLETS
HALF	1839	L.S.	NO DRAPERY	
HALF	1839	L.S.	DRAPERY	
HALF	1853-O	L.S.	NO MOTTO	TWINS
HALF	1853,O	L.S. ARROWS	AND RAYS	
HALF	1873, CC	MOTTO		TWINS
HALF	1873, CC	ARROWS		
SILVER DOLLAR	1795	FLOWING	HAIR	TWINS

SILVER DOLLAR	1795	DRAPED BUST	SMALL EAGLE	
SILVER DOLLAR	1798	SMALL EAGLE		TWINS
SILVER DOLLAR	1798	HERALDIC	EAGLE	
SILVER DOLLAR	1921	MORGAN		TWINS
SILVER DOLLAR	1921	PEACE	HIGH RELIEF	
SILVER DOLLAR	1922	PEACE	HIGH RELIEF	TWINS
SILVER DOLLAR	1922	PEACE	LOW RELIEF	
GOLD DOLLAR	1854-D-S	TYPE 1		TWINS
GOLD DOLLAR	1854	TYPE 2		
GOLD DOLLAR	1856-S	TYPE 2		TWINS
GOLD DOLLAR	1856,D	TYPE 3		
QUARTER EAGLE	1796	STARS		TWINS
QUARTER EAGLE	1796	NO STARS		
QUARTER EAGLE	1834	CAPPED BUST	0.9167 GOLD	TWINS
QUARTER EAGLE	1834	CLASSIC HEAD NO MOTTO	0.900 GOLD	SUBCATEGORY AB
HALF EAGLE	1795	SMALL EAGLE		TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1795	HERALDIC	EAGLE	
HALF EAGLE	1807	CAPPED BUST	TO RIGHT	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1807	CAPPED BUST	TO LEFT	
HALF EAGLE	1829	CAPPED, HEAD	LEFT, LARGE	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1829	CAPPED, HEAD	LEFT, SMALL	
HALF EAGLE	1834	CAPPED, HEAD LEFT, SMALL	0.9167 GOLD	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1834	CLASSIC HEAD	0.900 GOLD	SUBCATEGORY AB

HALF EAGLE	1866-S	CORONET	NO MOTTO	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1866,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
HALF EAGLE	1908	CORONET	MOTTO	TWINS
HALF EAGLE	1908	INDIAN HEAD		
EAGLE	1797	SMALL EAGLE		TWINS
EAGLE	1797	LARGE EAGLE		
EAGLE	1866-S	CORONET	NO MOTTO	TWINS
EAGLE	1866,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
EAGLE	1907,D,S	CORONET	MOTTO	TWINS
EAGLE	1907	INDIAN HEAD	NO MOTTO	
EAGLE	1908,D	INDIAN HEAD	NO MOTTO	TWINS
EAGLE	1908,D,S	INDIAN HEAD	WITH MOTTO	
DOUBLE EAGLE	1866-S	CORONET	NO MOTTO	TWINS
DOUBLE EAGLE	1866,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
DOUBLE EAGLE	1907,D,S	CORONET	MOTTO	
DOUBLE EAGLE	1907	ST GAUDENS	R.N. HIGH RELIEF	TRIPLETS
DOUBLE EAGLE	1907	ST GAUDENS	ARABIC, LOW RELIEF	

CATEGORY B, SAME DESIGN TYPE, SAME YEAR, DIFFERENT ALLOY

CENT	1864 INDIAN	BRONZE	TWINS	
CENT	1864 INDIAN	COPPER NICKEL		
CENT	1943-PDS	LINCOLN	STEEL	TWINS
CENT	1943-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER*	
			* PLANCHET	

ERROR				
CENT	1974-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER	TWINS
CENT	1974	LINCOLN	ALUMINUM *	
			* = PATTERN	
CENT	1982-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER	TWINS
CENT	1982-PDS	LINCOLN	COPPER PLATED ZINC	
NICKEL	1942	JEFFERSON	NICKEL	TWINS
NICKEL	1942	JEFFERSON	SILVER	
DIME	1992-DATE	ROOSEVELT	CLAD	TWINS
DIME	1992-DATE	ROOSEVELT	90% SILVER	
QUARTER	1776-1976,D	IKE	COPPER NICKEL	TWINS
QUARTER	1776-1976,D	IKE	SILVER CLAD	
QUARTER	1992-8-S	WASHINGTON	CLAD	TWINS
QUARTER	1992-8-S	WASHINGTON	90% SILVER	
QUARTERS	1999-2008	STATE	CLAD	TWINS
QUARTERS	1999-2008	STATE	90% SILVER	ALSO CATEGORY AB
HALF	1776-1976	KENNEDY	CLAD	TWINS
HALF	1776-1976	KENNEDY	SILVER CLAD	
HALF	1992-DATE	KENNEDY	CLAD	TWINS
HALF	1992-DATE	KENNEDY	90% SILVER	
DOLLAR	1971-4-S	IKE	CLAD	TWINS
DOLLAR	1971-4-S	IKE	SILVER CLAD	

DOLLAR	1776-1976-D-S	IKE	CLAD	TWINS
DOLLAR	1776-1976-D-S	IKE	SILVER CLAD	
DOLLAR	2000	SACAGAWEA	MANGANESE	TWINS
DOLLAR	2000	SACAGAWEA	GOLD*	
* = PATTERN				
<u>CATEGORY C , DIFFERENT DENOMINATION, SAME FACE VALUE, SAME YEAR</u>				
LARGE CENT	1856-7	CORONET		TWINS
SMALL CENT	1856-7	FLYING EAGLE		
3 CENT SILVER	1865-73	TYPE 3		TWINS
3-CENT NICKEL	1865-73	LIBERTY		
HALF DIME	1866	L.S.	LEGEND OBV	TWINS
NICKEL	1866	SHIELD	RAYS	
HALF DIME	1867	L.S.	LEGEND OBV	
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	RAYS	TRIPLETS
NICKEL	1867	SHIELD	NO RAYS	
HALF DIME	1868-73	L.S.	LEGEND OBV	TWINS
NICKEL	1868-73	SHIELD	NO RAYS	
SILVER DOLLAR	1849-1854	L.S.	NO MOTTO	TWINS
GOLD DOLLAR	1849-1854-S	TYPE 1		
SILVER DOLLAR	1873,CC,S	L.S.	MOTTO	
TRADE DOLLAR	1873,CC,S	LIBERTY		TRIPLETS
GOLD DOLLAR	1873	TYPE 3		
SILVER DOLLAR	1878-1885	MORGAN		
TRADE DOLLAR	1878-1885	LIBERTY		TRIPLETS
GOLD DOLLAR	1878-1885	TYPE 3		
SILVER DOLLAR	1878-1889	MORGAN		TWINS

GOLD DOLLAR

1878-1889

TYPE 3

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CIRCULATING U.S. TYPE COIN MINTAGES IN ASCENDING ORDER

BY JOHN H. MACMILLAN

The following comments and tables were compiled with help from the "Red book", 2003, (1), "United States Coins by Design Types" by Q. David Bowers, (2), "The Comprehensive Catalog of and Encyclopedia of U.S. coins" (3), "One Hundred Greatest U.S. Coins" (4) and Coin World published mintage figures (5). I generated it, being a long term type coin collector, to look for trends in the series. In general, I have included and excluded some rather controversial choices in the list. For example, the Gobrecht dollars were struck in proof, but released into circulation, thus I consider them true circulating U.S. type coins. Also are proof only silver versions of circulating U.S. clad coins to be included? I say yes, based upon their inclusion in "United States Coins by Design Types" by Q. David Bowers. The 1792 half disme was struck in large quantities (>1000) for a "pattern" and was released into circulation. Thus it is widely considered a legitimate type coin. Four dollar gold "stella's", although extremely popular, are definitely patterns and cannot be included. Of course mintages can be very deceiving. Early coins were reported by numbers of coins struck in the year. Many dyes from previous years were used until cracked or broken! Also, many gold coins, especially those struck prior to 1834, were extensively melted, as their gold content came to exceed their face value in bullion markets. However, I still feel the mintage list arranged in this novel manner has a general value as a reflection of intrinsic scarcity and as an indication of the growth of the American industrial economy. The following trends can be gleamed from the data.

- 1) The "top 20" in terms of low mintage are very tough for the collector of moderate means. High quality reproductions of many are available at moderate cost. Companies such as the Gallery Mint Museum and Royal Oak Mint sell excellent quality, original size reproductions with the government mandated word COPY prominently displayed.
- 2) Surviving mintages of 18th and most nineteenth century type coins are quite low, making the numerical rankings quite deceiving. In particular, the pre 1834 gold was extensively melted, as its metallic gold content came to exceed its face value. Less than 2% of these survive (ref 4). Thus those types ranked 2, 5, 9-11, 14, 23, 26, 35 and 41 are far, far rarer than official mintages would indicate. For example, the single year 1808 quarter eagle type coin has an estimated survival rate of 50-60 specimens from a mintage of 2,710 pieces (ref 4). 18th and early nineteenth century copper and silver type also have very low survival rates, with high quality specimens particularly rare.
- 3) Extensive meltings of other gold coins occurred after the 1933 gold recall. 1954 data published by the mint indicate that the mint alone melted 39% of all double eagles struck, 37% of all eagles, 35% of all half eagles and 15.4% of all quarter eagles! (ref 3). Numismatists also know that 270,232,722 silver dollars (mostly Morgans, some seated's?) were melted in 1918 under the Pittman act, thus the total Morgan mintage of 656,989,387 must be taken as the original pre-melt figure. Mass meltings of 90% silver coins occurred in the nineteen sixties and in 1980 when silver reached \$50 per ounce.
- 4) There are some "sleepers" in the series. For example, the 1840-1857 half cents have a low total mintage, but are moderately priced compared to other type coins of comparable mintage. Low popularity of the half cent series is largely responsible. Also the 1921 high relief Peace dollar, at ~ 1,000,000 mintage, appears to be a good value at present levels. The \$10.00 GOLD 1907-1908 INDIAN NO MOTTO and \$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD also appear to me to be undervalued in today's market.
- 5) Silver state quarters are a good value. They are low mintage, and in demand both as a type coin and by collectors of the state quarter series. They are widely dispersed among collectors.
- 6) The mintage data show the explosive growth of the American economy in the 19th and 20th centuries through westward expansion, industrialization and concurrent population increases. While localized mintage dips do occur, as in the 1930's depression, the overall mintages over the decades

always increase for the "big four" of cent, nickel, dime and quarter. The half dollar and dollar are now basically non circulating collector coins. The half dollar once circulated extensively, but after 1964 it was hoarded, probably out of nostalgia for the Kennedy era. A local vending machine swallowed one of mine recently with neither credit nor refund! Table I shows a breakdown of the mintage ranking figures by century.

TABLE 1, TYPE COINS MINTAGE RANKING BY CENTURY, 161 FINAL MINTAGES

TOP 20 (20 lowest mintages)

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	15	4	1	75	20	5

TOP 50

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	22	22	6	44	44	12

TOP 100

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	22	67	11	22	67	11

BOTTOM 61 (61 highest mintages)

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	0	17	44	0	28	62

As one can see, the bottom 61 highest mintages are heavily weighted to 20/21st century coinage, with most being in the hundreds of millions to multiple billions. The top 20 lowest mintages are heavily weighted to the 18th century, as would be expected for the infant, largely agricultural economy. The workhorse denominations of cent through quarter show the most explosive growth from 1900 onwards. The final figures for the clad Roosevelt dime, Jefferson nickel and clad Washington eagle back quarter could dwarf some of the highest final mintages already listed. The old style clad quarter could be resumed in 2009, so its "final" figure through 1998 is not listed. Through 1998 35,455,052,592 clad business strikes and 85,596,592 clad proofs had been produced, a lot of quarters! The final total mintages for the clad state quarters will also add up to a stupendous figure. Table 2 lists mintages of current type coins excluding state quarters through 2002. The Jefferson nickel design could be final later this year, although what happens after 2005 is anybody's guess.

TABLE 2

CURRENT TYPE COIN MINTAGES THROUGH 2002 (a)

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>BUSINESS STRIKES</u>	<u>PROOFS</u>
CENT, COPPER/ZINC 1982-	217,413,872,337	48,662,477
JEFFERSON NICKEL 1938-*	43,870,644,813	117,478,703
CLAD DIMES 1965-	59,396,420,858	95,560,671

CLAD QUARTERS 1965-1998**	35,455,052,334	85,596,592
CLAD HALF 1971-***	2,246,546,645	79,850,536
SACAGAWEA DOLLAR 2000-	1,427,061,110	N/A

* NO WAR NICKELS
INCLUDED

** NO BICENTENNIAL INCLUDED

*** NO BICENTENNIAL INCLUDED

a) COMPUTED FROM DATA IN REFS 1, 2 AND 5 WITH MICROSOFT EXCEL

7) Despite the difficulty with the top 20, there are still over 140 type coins, including series still in production, that are available to the collector of moderate means. Table 3 lists in ascending order all U.S. type coins with final mintages from 1792 to date. It was generated from data in references 1), 2) and 5), added and sorted with Microsoft Excel software.

I hope all collectors enjoy these tables!

TABLE 3. CIRCULATING U.S. TYPE COIN FINAL MINTAGES IN ASCENDING ORDER

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CIRCULATION MINTAGE</u>	<u>PROOFS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1	SILVER DOLLAR GOBRECHT 1839	300 (Proofs)	300	PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
2	\$2.50 GOLD 1796 NO STARS	963		MOST MELTED, EST 100-200 REMAIN (REF 4)
3	HALF DISME 1792	EST 1,000-2000		PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
4	SILVER DOLLAR GOBRECHT 1836	1600 (Proofs)	1,600	PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
5	\$2.50 GOLD 1808	2,710		MOST MELTED, 50-60 KNOWN (REF 4)
6	HALF DOLLAR 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	3,918		EST 200-300 REMAIN (REF 2)
7	QUARTER 1796	6,146		MANY UNC(REF 4)
8	\$20.00 GOLD ROMAN NUMERALS 1907 HIGH RELIEF	11,250	<25	POPULAR, 4-5 THOUSAND SURVIVE (REF 4)
9	\$10.00 GOLD 1795-1797 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	13,344		MOST MELTED
10	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1798 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	18,512		MOST MELTED
11	\$2.50 GOLD 1796-1807 CAPPED BUST STARS	18,524		MOST MELTED
12	HALF CENT 1793	35,334		FEW HUNDRED SURVIVE (REF 2)
13	CENT 1793 CHAIN	36,103		MOST LOW GRADE
14	\$2.50 GOLD 1821-1834 CAPPED HEAD TO LEFT	42,065	<150	MOST MELTED
15	DIME 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	47,396		MOST LOW GRADE
16	HALF DIME 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	54,757		MOST LOW GRADE

17	CENT 1793 WREATH	63,353		MOST LOW GRADE
18	HALF DIME 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	86,416		MOST LOW GRADE
19	\$10.00 GOLD 1797-1804 HERALDIC REVERSE	119,248		MOST MELTED
20	SILVER DOLLAR 1795-1798 DR BUST SM EAGLE	123,434		POPULAR
21	HALF DIME 1800-1805 DR BUST H.E.	124,270		VERY SCARCE, MOST LOW GRADE
22	SILVER DOLLAR 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	162,053		POPULAR
23	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1807 HERALDIC EAGLE	316,867		MOST MELTED
24	HALF DOLLAR 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	323,144		MOST LOW GRADE
25	HALF CENT 1794-1797 LIBERTY CAP	359,529		MOST LOW GRADE
26	\$5.00 GOLD 1807-1812 CAPPED BUST LEFT	399,013		MOST MELTED
27	DIME 1796-1807 DR BUST HERALDIC EAGLE	422,010		MOST LOW GRADE
28	\$10.00 GOLD 1907-1908 INDIAN NO MOTTO	483,448		SLEEPERS
29	\$3.00 GOLD 1854-1889	538,074	EST 2,060	POPULAR
30	HALF CENT 1840-1857 BRAIDED HAIR	544,510	<1,500	SLEEPERS
31	QUARTER 1804-1807 DR BUST, H.E.	554,900		MOST LOW GRADE
32	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 1999	804565 (Proofs)	804,565	GOOD VALUE
33	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 2001	889697 (Proofs)	889,697	GOOD VALUE
34	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 2000	965421 (Proofs)	965,421	GOOD VALUE
35	\$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD	968,228	<50	SLEEPERS
36	SILVER DOLLAR 1921 PEACE HIGH RELIEF	1,006,473		SLEEPER
37	DIME 1837-1838 L.S. NO STARS	1,088,534	<50	GOOD VALUE
38	SILVER DOLLAR 1798-1804 DR BUST H.E.	1,153,709		POPULAR
39	QUARTER 1815-1828 CAPPED BUST, LARGE	1,290,584	<100	
40	TWENTY CENT PIECE 1875-1878	1,349,840	5,000	
41	\$5.00 GOLD 1813-1834 CAPPED BUST LEFT	1,385,612	<150	MOST MELTED
42	HALF DIME 1837-1838 L.S. NO STARS	1,475,000	<50	
43	SILVER 3 CENT, 1859-1873 TYPE 111	1,572,600	10,840	
44	CENT 1793-1796 LIBERTY CAP	1,577,902		MOST LOW GRADE
45	HALF DOLLAR 1801-1807 DR BUST, H.E.	1,600,787		
46	GOLD DOLLAR 1854-1856 TYPE 11	1,633,426	<50	MOST WEAKLY STRUCK
47	\$5.00 GOLD 1834-1838 CLASSIC HEAD	2,113,612	<50	SLEEPER
48	QUARTER 1873-1874 ARROWS	2,302,822	1,240	
49	SILVER DOLLAR 1840-1865 LIBERTY SEATED	2,890,563	<5,500	
50	HALF CENT 1800-1808 DR BUST	3,416,950		
51	SILVER DOLLAR 1866-1873 L.S. WITH MOTTO	3,597,888	6,060	
52	HALF DOLLAR 1836-1837 R.E. 50 CENTS	3,631,020	<40	
53	HALF CENT 1809-1836 CLASSIC HEAD	3,635,712	~100-200	
54	QUARTER 1831-1838 CAPPED BUST, SMALL	4,202,400	<150	
55	CENT 1808-1814 CLASSIC HEAD	4,757,722		MOST POORLY STRUCK OR POROUS
56	HALF DOLLAR 1853 ARROWS AND RAYS	4,860,708	<10	
57	SILVER 3 CENT, 1854-1858 TYPE 11	4,914,000	<300	MOST WEAKLY STRUCK
58	DIME 1809-1827 CAPPED BUST LARGE	4,931,844	<150	
59	HALF DOLLAR 1873-1874 WITH ARROWS	5,070,310	1,250	
60	HALF DOLLAR 1838-1839 CAP BUST HALF DOL	5,117,972	<50	
61	\$10.00 GOLD 1838-1866 CORONET	5,292,499	EST 400	
62	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 NO MOTTO	5,294,968	<5	
63	GOLD DOLLAR 1856-1889 TYPE 111	5,327,363	EST 8,700	

64	NICKEL 5 CENT LIBERTY, NO CENTS	5,474,000	5,219	MANY HOARDED
65	DIME 1873-1874 L.S. WITH ARROWS	6,041,608	1,500	
66	DIME 1828-1837 CAPPED BUST LARGE	6,778,350	<200	
67	\$2.50 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	7,250,261	1,827	MANY MELTED IN 1933
68	\$5.00 GOLD 1839-1866 CORONET	9,114,049	EST 450	
69	DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
70	HALF DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
71	QUARTER 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
72	\$2.50 GOLD 1840-1907 CORONET	11,921,171	EST 4,232	MANY MELTED IN 1933
73	QUARTER 1916-1917 STANDING LIBERTY TYPE 1	12,253,200		
74	GOLD DOLLAR 1849-1854 TYPE 1	12,565,273	<50	
75	HALF DOLLAR 1854-1855 ARROWS	12,799,450	<140	
76	DOLLAR 1971-1978 EISENHOWER SILVER CLAD	12,844,726	8,397,090	
77	HALF DIME 1829-1837 CAPPED BUST	13,058,700	EST HUNDREDS	
78	\$5.00 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	14,078,066	1,077	MANY MELTED IN 1933
79	\$10.00 GOLD 1908-1933 INDIAN WITH MOTTO	14,385,139	768	MANY MELTED IN 1933
80	CENT 1837-1839 MODIFIED MATRON HEAD	15,057,161	<100	
81	HALF DIME 1860-1873 LEGEND	15,552,600	10,040	
82	CENT 1796-1807 DRAPED BUST	16,111,810		
83	\$20.00 GOLD 1866-1876 CORONET WITH MOTTO	16,160,758	335	
84	QUARTER 1853 ARROWS AND RAYS	16,542,000	<10	
85	NICKEL 5 CENT SHIELD, RAYS	16,761,500	EST 500	
86	QUARTER 1854-1855 ARROWS	17,293,400	<140	
87	DIME 1853-1855 ARROWS	21,493,010	<150	
88	\$20.00 GOLD 1849-1866 CORONET	23,526,676	EST 375	
89	HALF DIME 1853-1855 ARROWS	25,060,020	<150	
90	CENT LINCOLN 1909 V.D.B.	28,479,000	420	POPULAR
91	NICKEL 3 CENT 1865-1889	31,332,527	EST 56,000	
92	TRADE DOLLAR 1873-1885	35,954,535	11,404	MANY CHOPMARKED
93	SILVER 3 CENT, 1851-1853 TYPE 1	36,230,940	<60	
94	CENT 1859 INDIAN, LAUREL WREATH	36,400,000	EST 800	
95	\$10.00 GOLD 1866-1907 CORONET WITH MOTTO	37,391,767	2,327	MANY MELTED IN 1933
96	NICKEL 5 CENT 1913 BUFFALO TYPE 1	38,434,270	1,250	
97	CENT 1856-1858 FLYING EAGLE	42,050,000	<2000	
98	HALF DIME 1838-1859 L.S. STARS	42,705,774	<1,500	
99	DIME 1838-1860 L.S. WITH STARS	42,962,915	<1,500	
100	TWO CENT PIECE 1864-1873	45,601,000	EST 7,500	
101	QUARTER 1838-1865 LIBERTY SEATED	46,685,313	<5,500	
102	CENT 1816-1837 MATRON HEAD	47,765,912	A FEW HUNDRED	
103	\$5.00 GOLD 1866-1908 CORONET WITH MOTTO	51,503,654	2,938	MANY MELTED IN 1933
104	HALF DOLLAR 1866-1891 WITH MOTTO	56,138,834	20,923	
105	\$20.00 GOLD 1877-1907 CORONET TWENTY DOLLARS	64,137,477	2,426	MANY MELTED IN 1933
106	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 WITH MOTTO	64,981,248	687	
107	CENT 1839-1857 BRAIDED HAIR	70,916,803	<1,000	

108	QUARTER 1866-1891 WITH MOTTO	72,680,181	20,923	
109	HALF DOLLAR 1839-1866 LIBERTY SEATED	76,238,285	<5,500	
110	HALF DOLLAR 1807-1836 CAPPED BUST, L.E.	82,339,124	200-300	
111	NICKEL 5 CENT SHIELD, NO RAYS	111,256,110	EST 31,000	
112	CENT 1860-1864 INDIAN, COPPER NICKEL	122,321,000	<2,500	
113	HALF DOLLAR 1892-1915 BARBER	135,916,889	17,313	
114	DIME 1860-1891 LEGEND	175,889,677	25,403	
115	SILVER DOLLAR 1922-1935 PEACE LOW RELIEF	189,570,806	<50	
116	QUARTER 1917-1930 STANDING LIBERTY TYPE 11	214,516,400		
117	DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	220,565,274	6,995,180	
118	QUARTER 1892-1916 BARBER	264,670,880	17,299	
119	HALF DOLLAR 1964 KENNEDY SILVER	429,509,450	3,950,962	
120	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2003 ILLINOIS	463,200,000	N/A	
121	HALF DOLLAR 1948-1963 FRANKLIN	465,814,455	15,866,955	
122	DOLLAR 1971-1978 EISENHOWER CLAD	466,001,887	11,751,840	
123	HALF DOLLAR 1916-1947 WALKING LIBERTY	485,320,340	74,400	
124	DIME 1892-1916 BARBER	504,317,075	17,353	
125	HALF DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	521,873,248	7,059,099	
126	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 MISSISSIPPI	579,600,000	N/A	Ref 5
127	NICKEL 5 CENT LIBERTY, WITH CENTS	596,535,965	79,923	
128	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 OHIO	632,032,000	N/A	
129	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 TENNESSEE	648,068,000	N/A	Ref 5
130	SILVER DOLLAR 1878-1921 MORGAN	656,989,387	23,723	MANY MELTED IN 1918
131	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 NEW JERSEY	662,228,000	N/A	Ref 5
132	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 INDIANA	689,800,000	N/A	Ref 5
133	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 PENNSYLVANIA	707,332,000	N/A	Ref 5
134	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 KENTUCKY	723,564,000	N/A	Ref 5
135	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 LOUISIANA	763,804,000	N/A	Ref 5
136	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 DELAWARE	774,824,000	N/A	Ref 5
137	HALF DOLLAR 1965-1970 KENNEDY SILVER CLAD	848,895,006	8,608,947	
138	NICKEL 5 CENT 1942-1945, JEFFERSON, SILVER	869,896,100	27,600	MANY MELTED IN 1980
139	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 RHODE ISLAND	870,100,000	N/A	Ref 5
140	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 VERMONT	882,804,000	N/A	Ref 5
141	DOLLAR 1979-1999 SUSAN B. ANTHONY	898,584,452	>11,295,064	
142	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 GEORGIA	939,932,000	N/A	Ref 5
143	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 NORTH CAROLINA	1,055,476,000	N/A	Ref 5
144	CENT LINCOLN 1943 STEEL	1,093,838,670		CORRODE EASILY
145	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 MASS	1,163,784,000	937,600	Ref 5
146	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,169,016,000	937,600	Ref 5
147	NICKEL 5 CENT 1913-1938 BUFFALO TYPE 11	1,174,464,771	4,439 MATTE	
148	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 MARYLAND	1,234,732,000	937,600	Ref 5
149	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 NEW YORK	1,275,040,000	N/A	Ref 5
150	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 SOUTH CAROLINA	1,308,784,000	937,600	Ref 5

151	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 CONNECTICUT	1,346,624,000	N/A	Ref 5
152	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 VIRGINIA	1,594,616,000	937,600	Ref 5
153	QUARTER 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	1,669,902,855	7,059,099	
154	CENT INDIAN 1864-1909 BRONZE	1,690,839,942	EST 98,000	
155	DIME 1916-1945 MERCURY	2,677,153,880	78,648	
156	QUARTER 1932-1964 WASHINGTON, SILVER	3,780,077,001	19,911,592	MANY MELTED IN 1980
157	CENT LINCOLN 1944-1946 SHELL CASE ALLOY	5,142,736,000		
158	DIME 1946-1964 ROOSEVELT, SILVER	6,595,617,673	19,837,717	MANY MELTED IN 1980
159	NICKEL, JEFFERSON, NO FS INITIALS, 1938-1965	6,885,197,900	19,931,995	
160	CENT LINCOLN 1909-1958 WREATH	19,552,500,823	15,314 MATTE	
161	CENT LINCOLN 1959-1982 MEMORIAL REVERSE	158,150,469,076	65,103,802	

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- 1) The "top 20" in terms of low mintage are very tough for the collector of moderate means. High quality reproductions of many are available at moderate cost. Companies such as the Gallery Mint Museum and Royal Oak Mint sell excellent quality, original size reproductions with the government mandated word COPY prominently displayed.
- 2) Surviving mintages of 18th and most nineteenth century type coins are quite low, making the numerical rankings quite deceiving. In particular, the pre 1834 gold was extensively melted, as its metallic gold content came to exceed its face value. Less than 2% of these survive (ref 4). Thus numbers 2,5,9-11,,14,23,26,35 and 41 are far, far rarer than official mintages would indicate. For example, the single year 1808 quarter eagle type coin has an estimated survival rate of 50-60 specimens from a mintage of 2,710 pieces (ref 4). 18th and early nineteenth century copper and silver type also have very low survival rates, with high quality specimens particularly rare.
- 3) Extensive meltings of other gold coins occurred after the 1933 gold recall. 1954 data published by the mint indicate that the mint alone melted 39% of all double eagles struck, 37% of all eagles, 35% of all half eagles and 15.4% of all quarter eagles! (ref 3). Numismatists also know that 270,232,722 silver dollars (mostly Morgans, some seated's?) were melted in 1918 under the Pittman act, thus the total Morgan mintage of 656,989,387 must be taken as the original pre-melt figure. Mass meltings of 90% silver coins occurred in the nineteen sixties and in 1980 when silver reached \$50 per ounce.
- 4) There are some "sleepers" in the series. For example, the 1840-1857 half cents have a low total mintage, but are moderately priced compared to other type coins of comparable mintage. Low popularity of the half cent series is largely responsible. Also the 1921 high relief Peace dollar, at ~ 1,000,000 mintage, appears to be a good value at present levels. The \$10.00 GOLD 1907-1908 INDIAN NO MOTTO and \$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD also appear to me to be undervalued in today's market.
- 5) Silver state quarters are a good value. They are low mintage, and in demand both as a type coin and by collectors of the state quarter series. They are widely dispersed among collectors.
- 6) The mintage data show the explosive growth of the American economy in the 19th and 20th centuries through westward expansion, industrialization and concurrent population increases. While localized mintage dips do occur, as in the 1930's depression, the overall mintages over the decades

always increase for the "big four" of cent, nickel, dime and quarter. The half dollar and dollar are now basically non circulating collector coins. The half dollar once circulated extensively, but after 1964 it was hoarded, probably out of nostalgia for the Kennedy era. A local vending machine swallowed one of mine recently with neither credit nor refund! [Table I](#) shows a breakdown of the mintage ranking figures by century.

TABLE 1, TYPE COINS MINTAGE RANKING BY CENTURY, 161 FINAL MINTAGES

TOP 20 (20 lowest mintages)

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	15	4	1	75	20	5

TOP 50

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	22	22	6	44	44	12

TOP 100

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	22	67	11	22	67	11

BOTTOM 61 (61 highest mintages)

<u>CENTURY</u>	<u>18TH</u>	<u>19TH</u>	<u>20TH/21ST</u>	<u>% 18TH</u>	<u>% 19TH</u>	<u>% 20TH/21ST</u>
<u>NUMBER</u>	0	17	44	0	28	62

As one can see, the bottom 61 highest mintages are heavily weighted to 20/21st century coinage, with most being in the hundreds of millions to multiple billions. The top 20 lowest mintages are heavily weighted to the 18th century, as would be expected for the infant, largely agricultural economy. The workhorse denominations of cent through quarter show the most explosive growth from 1900 onwards. The final figures for the clad Roosevelt dime, Jefferson nickel and clad Washington eagle back quarter could dwarf some of the highest final mintages already listed. The old style clad quarter could be resumed in 2009, so its "final" figure through 1998 is not listed. Through 1998 35,455,052,592 clad business strikes and 85,596,592 clad proofs had been produced, a lot of quarters! The final total mintages for the clad state quarters will also add up to a stupendous figure. [Table 2](#) lists mintages of current type coins excluding state quarters through 2002. The Jefferson nickel design could be final later this year, although what happens after 2005 is anybody's guess.

TABLE 2

CURRENT TYPE COIN MINTAGES THROUGH 2002 (a)

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>BUSINESS STRIKES</u>	<u>PROOFS</u>
CENT, COPPER/ZINC 1982-	217,413,872,337	48,662,477
JEFFERSON NICKEL 1938-*	43,870,644,813	117,478,703
CLAD DIMES 1965-	59,396,420,858	95,560,671

CLAD QUARTERS 1965-1998**	35,455,052,334	85,596,592
CLAD HALF 1971-***	2,246,546,645	79,850,536
SACAGAWEA DOLLAR 2000-	1,427,061,110	N/A

* NO WAR NICKELS
INCLUDED

** NO BICENTENNIAL INCLUDED

*** NO BICENTENNIAL INCLUDED

a) COMPUTED FROM DATA IN REFS 1, 2 AND 5 WITH MICROSOFT EXCEL

7) Despite the difficulty with the top 20, there are still over 140 type coins, including series still in production, that are available to the collector of moderate means. Table 3 lists in ascending order all U.S. type coins with final mintages from 1792 to date. It was generated from data in references 1), 2) and 5), added and sorted with Microsoft Excel software.

I hope all collectors enjoy these tables!

TABLE 3. CIRCULATING U.S. TYPE COIN FINAL MINTAGES IN ASCENDING ORDER

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CIRCULATION MINTAGE</u>	<u>PROOFS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1	SILVER DOLLAR GOBRECHT 1839	300 (Proofs)	300	PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
2	\$2.50 GOLD 1796 NO STARS	963		MOST MELTED, EST 100-200 REMAIN (REF 4)
3	HALF DISME 1792	EST 1,000-2000		PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
4	SILVER DOLLAR GOBRECHT 1836	1600 (Proofs)	1,600	PLACED INTO CIRCULATION
5	\$2.50 GOLD 1808	2,710		MOST MELTED, 50-60 KNOWN (REF 4)
6	HALF DOLLAR 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	3,918		EST 200-300 REMAIN (REF 2)
7	QUARTER 1796	6,146		MANY UNC(REF 4)
8	\$20.00 GOLD ROMAN NUMERALS 1907 HIGH RELIEF	11,250	<25	POPULAR, 4-5 THOUSAND SURVIVE (REF 4)
9	\$10.00 GOLD 1795-1797 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	13,344		MOST MELTED
10	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1798 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	18,512		MOST MELTED
11	\$2.50 GOLD 1796-1807 CAPPED BUST STARS	18,524		MOST MELTED
12	HALF CENT 1793	35,334		FEW HUNDRED SURVIVE (REF 2)
13	CENT 1793 CHAIN	36,103		MOST LOW GRADE
14	\$2.50 GOLD 1821-1834 CAPPED HEAD TO LEFT	42,065	<150	MOST MELTED
15	DIME 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	47,396		MOST LOW GRADE
16	HALF DIME 1796-1797 DR BUST SM EAGLE	54,757		MOST LOW GRADE

17	CENT 1793 WREATH	63,353		MOST LOW GRADE
18	HALF DIME 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	86,416		MOST LOW GRADE
19	\$10.00 GOLD 1797-1804 HERALDIC REVERSE	119,248		MOST MELTED
20	SILVER DOLLAR 1795-1798 DR BUST SM EAGLE	123,434		POPULAR
21	HALF DIME 1800-1805 DR BUST H.E.	124,270		VERY SCARCE, MOST LOW GRADE
22	SILVER DOLLAR 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	162,053		POPULAR
23	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1807 HERALDIC EAGLE	316,867		MOST MELTED
24	HALF DOLLAR 1794-1795 FLOWING HAIR	323,144		MOST LOW GRADE
25	HALF CENT 1794-1797 LIBERTY CAP	359,529		MOST LOW GRADE
26	\$5.00 GOLD 1807-1812 CAPPED BUST LEFT	399,013		MOST MELTED
27	DIME 1796-1807 DR BUST HERALDIC EAGLE	422,010		MOST LOW GRADE
28	\$10.00 GOLD 1907-1908 INDIAN NO MOTTO	483,448		SLEEPERS
29	\$3.00 GOLD 1854-1889	538,074	EST 2,060	POPULAR
30	HALF CENT 1840-1857 BRAIDED HAIR	544,510	<1,500	SLEEPERS
31	QUARTER 1804-1807 DR BUST, H.E.	554,900		MOST LOW GRADE
32	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 1999	804565 (Proofs)	804,565	GOOD VALUE
33	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 2001	889697 (Proofs)	889,697	GOOD VALUE
34	STATE QUARTERS SILVER 2000	965421 (Proofs)	965,421	GOOD VALUE
35	\$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD	968,228	<50	SLEEPERS
36	SILVER DOLLAR 1921 PEACE HIGH RELIEF	1,006,473		SLEEPER
37	DIME 1837-1838 L.S. NO STARS	1,088,534	<50	GOOD VALUE
38	SILVER DOLLAR 1798-1804 DR BUST H.E.	1,153,709		POPULAR
39	QUARTER 1815-1828 CAPPED BUST, LARGE	1,290,584	<100	
40	TWENTY CENT PIECE 1875-1878	1,349,840	5,000	
41	\$5.00 GOLD 1813-1834 CAPPED BUST LEFT	1,385,612	<150	MOST MELTED
42	HALF DIME 1837-1838 L.S. NO STARS	1,475,000	<50	
43	SILVER 3 CENT, 1859-1873 TYPE 111	1,572,600	10,840	
44	CENT 1793-1796 LIBERTY CAP	1,577,902		MOST LOW GRADE
45	HALF DOLLAR 1801-1807 DR BUST, H.E.	1,600,787		
46	GOLD DOLLAR 1854-1856 TYPE 11	1,633,426	<50	MOST WEAKLY STRUCK
47	\$5.00 GOLD 1834-1838 CLASSIC HEAD	2,113,612	<50	SLEEPER
48	QUARTER 1873-1874 ARROWS	2,302,822	1,240	
49	SILVER DOLLAR 1840-1865 LIBERTY SEATED	2,890,563	<5,500	
50	HALF CENT 1800-1808 DR BUST	3,416,950		
51	SILVER DOLLAR 1866-1873 L.S. WITH MOTTO	3,597,888	6,060	
52	HALF DOLLAR 1836-1837 R.E. 50 CENTS	3,631,020	<40	
53	HALF CENT 1809-1836 CLASSIC HEAD	3,635,712	~100-200	
54	QUARTER 1831-1838 CAPPED BUST, SMALL	4,202,400	<150	
55	CENT 1808-1814 CLASSIC HEAD	4,757,722		MOST POORLY STRUCK OR POROUS
56	HALF DOLLAR 1853 ARROWS AND RAYS	4,860,708	<10	
57	SILVER 3 CENT, 1854-1858 TYPE 11	4,914,000	<300	MOST WEAKLY STRUCK
58	DIME 1809-1827 CAPPED BUST LARGE	4,931,844	<150	
59	HALF DOLLAR 1873-1874 WITH ARROWS	5,070,310	1,250	
60	HALF DOLLAR 1838-1839 CAP BUST HALF DOL	5,117,972	<50	
61	\$10.00 GOLD 1838-1866 CORONET	5,292,499	EST 400	
62	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 NO MOTTO	5,294,968	<5	
63	GOLD DOLLAR 1856-1889 TYPE 111	5,327,363	EST 8,700	

64	NICKEL 5 CENT LIBERTY, NO CENTS	5,474,000	5,219	MANY HOARDED
65	DIME 1873-1874 L.S. WITH ARROWS	6,041,608	1,500	
66	DIME 1828-1837 CAPPED BUST LARGE	6,778,350	<200	
67	\$2.50 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	7,250,261	1,827	MANY MELTED IN 1933
68	\$5.00 GOLD 1839-1866 CORONET	9,114,049	EST 450	
69	DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
70	HALF DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
71	QUARTER 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL SILVER	11,000,000	4,000,000	
72	\$2.50 GOLD 1840-1907 CORONET	11,921,171	EST 4,232	MANY MELTED IN 1933
73	QUARTER 1916-1917 STANDING LIBERTY TYPE 1	12,253,200		
74	GOLD DOLLAR 1849-1854 TYPE 1	12,565,273	<50	
75	HALF DOLLAR 1854-1855 ARROWS	12,799,450	<140	
76	DOLLAR 1971-1978 EISENHOWER SILVER CLAD	12,844,726	8,397,090	
77	HALF DIME 1829-1837 CAPPED BUST	13,058,700	EST HUNDREDS	
78	\$5.00 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	14,078,066	1,077	MANY MELTED IN 1933
79	\$10.00 GOLD 1908-1933 INDIAN WITH MOTTO	14,385,139	768	MANY MELTED IN 1933
80	CENT 1837-1839 MODIFIED MATRON HEAD	15,057,161	<100	
81	HALF DIME 1860-1873 LEGEND	15,552,600	10,040	
82	CENT 1796-1807 DRAPED BUST	16,111,810		
83	\$20.00 GOLD 1866-1876 CORONET WITH MOTTO	16,160,758	335	
84	QUARTER 1853 ARROWS AND RAYS	16,542,000	<10	
85	NICKEL 5 CENT SHIELD, RAYS	16,761,500	EST 500	
86	QUARTER 1854-1855 ARROWS	17,293,400	<140	
87	DIME 1853-1855 ARROWS	21,493,010	<150	
88	\$20.00 GOLD 1849-1866 CORONET	23,526,676	EST 375	
89	HALF DIME 1853-1855 ARROWS	25,060,020	<150	
90	CENT LINCOLN 1909 V.D.B.	28,479,000	420	POPULAR
91	NICKEL 3 CENT 1865-1889	31,332,527	EST 56,000	
92	TRADE DOLLAR 1873-1885	35,954,535	11,404	MANY CHOPMARKED
93	SILVER 3 CENT, 1851-1853 TYPE 1	36,230,940	<60	
94	CENT 1859 INDIAN, LAUREL WREATH	36,400,000	EST 800	
95	\$10.00 GOLD 1866-1907 CORONET WITH MOTTO	37,391,767	2,327	MANY MELTED IN 1933
96	NICKEL 5 CENT 1913 BUFFALO TYPE 1	38,434,270	1,250	
97	CENT 1856-1858 FLYING EAGLE	42,050,000	<2000	
98	HALF DIME 1838-1859 L.S. STARS	42,705,774	<1,500	
99	DIME 1838-1860 L.S. WITH STARS	42,962,915	<1,500	
100	TWO CENT PIECE 1864-1873	45,601,000	EST 7,500	
101	QUARTER 1838-1865 LIBERTY SEATED	46,685,313	<5,500	
102	CENT 1816-1837 MATRON HEAD	47,765,912	A FEW HUNDRED	
103	\$5.00 GOLD 1866-1908 CORONET WITH MOTTO	51,503,654	2,938	MANY MELTED IN 1933
104	HALF DOLLAR 1866-1891 WITH MOTTO	56,138,834	20,923	
105	\$20.00 GOLD 1877-1907 CORONET TWENTY DOLLARS	64,137,477	2,426	MANY MELTED IN 1933
106	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 WITH MOTTO	64,981,248	687	
107	CENT 1839-1857 BRAIDED HAIR	70,916,803	<1,000	

108	QUARTER 1866-1891 WITH MOTTO	72,680,181	20,923	
109	HALF DOLLAR 1839-1866 LIBERTY SEATED	76,238,285	<5,500	
110	HALF DOLLAR 1807-1836 CAPPED BUST, L.E.	82,339,124	200-300	
111	NICKEL 5 CENT SHIELD, NO RAYS	111,256,110	EST 31,000	
112	CENT 1860-1864 INDIAN, COPPER NICKEL	122,321,000	<2,500	
113	HALF DOLLAR 1892-1915 BARBER	135,916,889	17,313	
114	DIME 1860-1891 LEGEND	175,889,677	25,403	
115	SILVER DOLLAR 1922-1935 PEACE LOW RELIEF	189,570,806	<50	
116	QUARTER 1917-1930 STANDING LIBERTY TYPE 11	214,516,400		
117	DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	220,565,274	6,995,180	
118	QUARTER 1892-1916 BARBER	264,670,880	17,299	
119	HALF DOLLAR 1964 KENNEDY SILVER	429,509,450	3,950,962	
120	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2003 ILLINOIS	463,200,000	N/A	
121	HALF DOLLAR 1948-1963 FRANKLIN	465,814,455	15,866,955	
122	DOLLAR 1971-1978 EISENHOWER CLAD	466,001,887	11,751,840	
123	HALF DOLLAR 1916-1947 WALKING LIBERTY	485,320,340	74,400	
124	DIME 1892-1916 BARBER	504,317,075	17,353	
125	HALF DOLLAR 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	521,873,248	7,059,099	
126	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 MISSISSIPPI	579,600,000	N/A	Ref 5
127	NICKEL 5 CENT LIBERTY, WITH CENTS	596,535,965	79,923	
128	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 OHIO	632,032,000	N/A	
129	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 TENNESSEE	648,068,000	N/A	Ref 5
130	SILVER DOLLAR 1878-1921 MORGAN	656,989,387	23,723	MANY MELTED IN 1918
131	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 NEW JERSEY	662,228,000	N/A	Ref 5
132	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 INDIANA	689,800,000	N/A	Ref 5
133	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 PENNSYLVANIA	707,332,000	N/A	Ref 5
134	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 KENTUCKY	723,564,000	N/A	Ref 5
135	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2002 LOUISIANA	763,804,000	N/A	Ref 5
136	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 DELAWARE	774,824,000	N/A	Ref 5
137	HALF DOLLAR 1965-1970 KENNEDY SILVER CLAD	848,895,006	8,608,947	
138	NICKEL 5 CENT 1942-1945, JEFFERSON, SILVER	869,896,100	27,600	MANY MELTED IN 1980
139	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 RHODE ISLAND	870,100,000	N/A	Ref 5
140	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 VERMONT	882,804,000	N/A	Ref 5
141	DOLLAR 1979-1999 SUSAN B. ANTHONY	898,584,452	>11,295,064	
142	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 GEORGIA	939,932,000	N/A	Ref 5
143	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 NORTH CAROLINA	1,055,476,000	N/A	Ref 5
144	CENT LINCOLN 1943 STEEL	1,093,838,670		CORRODE EASILY
145	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 MASS	1,163,784,000	937,600	Ref 5
146	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,169,016,000	937,600	Ref 5
147	NICKEL 5 CENT 1913-1938 BUFFALO TYPE 11	1,174,464,771	4,439 MATTE	
148	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 MARYLAND	1,234,732,000	937,600	Ref 5
149	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2001 NEW YORK	1,275,040,000	N/A	Ref 5
150	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 SOUTH CAROLINA	1,308,784,000	937,600	Ref 5

151	STATE QUARTER CLAD 1999 CONNECTICUT	1,346,624,000	N/A	Ref 5
152	STATE QUARTER CLAD 2000 VIRGINIA	1,594,616,000	937,600	Ref 5
153	QUARTER 1776-1976 BICENTENNIAL CLAD	1,669,902,855	7,059,099	
154	CENT INDIAN 1864-1909 BRONZE	1,690,839,942	EST 98,000	
155	DIME 1916-1945 MERCURY	2,677,153,880	78,648	
156	QUARTER 1932-1964 WASHINGTON, SILVER	3,780,077,001	19,911,592	MANY MELTED IN 1980
157	CENT LINCOLN 1944-1946 SHELL CASE ALLOY	5,142,736,000		
158	DIME 1946-1964 ROOSEVELT, SILVER	6,595,617,673	19,837,717	MANY MELTED IN 1980
159	NICKEL, JEFFERSON, NO FS INITIALS, 1938-1965	6,885,197,900	19,931,995	
160	CENT LINCOLN 1909-1958 WREATH	19,552,500,823	15,314 MATTE	
161	CENT LINCOLN 1959-1982 MEMORIAL REVERSE	158,150,469,076	65,103,802	

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GOLD TYPE COIN MINTAGES IN ASCENDING ORDER

RANK	TYPE	CIRCULATION MINTAGE	PROOFS
1	\$2.50 GOLD 1796 NO STARS	963	
2	\$2.50 GOLD 1808	2,710	
3	\$20.00 GOLD ROMAN NUMERALS 1907 HIGH RELIEF	11,250	<25
4	\$10.00 GOLD 1795-1797 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	13,344	
5	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1798 SMALL EAGLE REVERSE	18,512	
6	\$2.50 GOLD 1796-1807 CAPPED BUST STARS	18,524	
7	\$2.50 GOLD 1821-1834 CAPPED HEAD TO LEFT	42,065	<150
8	\$10.00 GOLD 1797-1804 HERALDIC REVERSE	119,248	
9	\$5.00 GOLD 1795-1807 HERALDIC EAGLE	316,867	
10	\$5.00 GOLD 1807-1812 CAPPED BUST LEFT	399,013	
11	\$10.00 GOLD 1907-1908 INDIAN NO MOTTO	483,448	
12	\$3.00 GOLD 1854-1889	538,074	EST 2,060
13	\$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD	968,228	<50
14	\$5.00 GOLD 1813-1834 CAPPED BUST LEFT	1,385,612	<150
15	GOLD DOLLAR 1854-1856 TYPE 11	1,633,426	<50
16	\$5.00 GOLD 1834-1838 CLASSIC HEAD	2,113,612	<50
17	\$10.00 GOLD 1838-1866 CORONET	5,292,499	EST 400
18	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 NO MOTTO	5,294,968	<5
19	GOLD DOLLAR 1856-1889 TYPE 111	5,327,363	EST 8,700
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21	\$5.00 GOLD 1839-1866 CORONET	9,114,049	EST 450
22	\$2.50 GOLD 1840-1907 CORONET	11,921,171	EST 4,232
23	GOLD DOLLAR 1849-1854 TYPE 1	12,565,273	<50
24	\$5.00 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	14,078,066	1,077
25	\$10.00 GOLD 1908-1933 INDIAN WITH MOTTO	14,385,139	768
26	\$20.00 GOLD 1866-1876 CORONET WITH MOTTO	16,160,758	335
27	\$20.00 GOLD 1849-1866 CORONET	23,526,676	EST 375
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13	\$2.50 GOLD 1834-1839 CLASSIC HEAD	968,228	<50
14	\$5.00 GOLD 1813-1834 CAPPED BUST LEFT	1,385,612	<150
15	GOLD DOLLAR 1854-1856 TYPE 11	1,633,426	<50
16	\$5.00 GOLD 1834-1838 CLASSIC HEAD	2,113,612	<50
17	\$10.00 GOLD 1838-1866 CORONET	5,292,499	EST 400
18	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 NO MOTTO	5,294,968	<5
19	GOLD DOLLAR 1856-1889 TYPE 111	5,327,363	EST 8,700
20	\$2.50 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	7,250,261	1,827
21	\$5.00 GOLD 1839-1866 CORONET	9,114,049	EST 450
22	\$2.50 GOLD 1840-1907 CORONET	11,921,171	EST 4,232
23	GOLD DOLLAR 1849-1854 TYPE 1	12,565,273	<50
24	\$5.00 GOLD 1908-1929 INDIAN	14,078,066	1,077
25	\$10.00 GOLD 1908-1933 INDIAN WITH MOTTO	14,385,139	768
26	\$20.00 GOLD 1866-1876 CORONET WITH MOTTO	16,160,758	335
27	\$20.00 GOLD 1849-1866 CORONET	23,526,676	EST 375
28	\$10.00 GOLD 1866-1907 CORONET WITH MOTTO	37,391,767	2,327
29	\$5.00 GOLD 1866-1908 CORONET WITH MOTTO	51,503,654	2,938
30	\$20.00 GOLD 1877-1907 CORONET TWENTY DOLLARS	64,137,477	2,426
31	\$20.00 GOLD 1907-1908 WITH MOTTO	64,981,248	687

BUILDING A TYPE SET OF U.S. COINS

John H. MacMillan Ph.D.

1) What is a type set?

A type set is generally defined as a collection that contains one, and only one, of each design for a series or complete coinage series. For example, a complete type set of 3 cent silver will be only 3 pieces while a complete type set of U.S. circulating coins would contain one of each design type from half cents through bullion platinum and from 1792 to the present. Major design types are usually supplemented with variations such as coins with and without arrows, rays, drapery or mottoes. A collector can decide which varieties to include as a matter of personal preference. This article is my attempt to share my experiences of collecting U.S. type coins. As a collector of moderate means I can give an overview of collecting strategies, pitfalls and guidelines for assembling a beautiful collection with annual expenditures of \$2000 or less. A collector has his entire life to enjoy this collecting specialty, so patience is required. I have collected for over 30 years and now have all but 2 types for the period 1834-present. A complete collection is impossible for all but the most wealthy so compromises and hard choices must be made. The article is broken into chapters for easy reading. I hope to convince you that type collecting is the most enjoyable specialty in U.S. coin collecting. The general principles elucidated here are also applicable to other specialties, such as commemoratives, ancients, hard times tokens and world coins.

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2. Why collect by type?

Variety is the spice of life for the type collector. A date collector assembles one of each date and mint mark for a series such as Lincoln cents or silver dollars. A varieties collector may focus on minute die variations in large cents or half cents. Reasons to collect by type rather than the other methods include:

- a. A type collection shows all the designs of U.S. coinage, some designs being very beautiful. Such a collection if exhibited will be of greater appeal to non collectors or beginners. Exotic denominations such as 2 cent pieces or \$2.50 gold usually elicit interest from the public. If you want to experience the complete panorama of U.S. coinage, from half cents to double eagles, a well developed type collection will view as a breathtaking experience.
- b. A type collector with only moderate reading can gain a wide overview of the history of U.S. coinage, minting practices and reasons for design changes.
- c. A type collection is easy to start, as late 20th and 21st century designs (excepting gold and platinum bullion issues) are mostly cheap even in high grades.
- d. A type collection can be a store of value and even a good investment if choice problem free specimens of good eye appeal are obtained. What we mean by these terms will be elaborated on later.

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3. **Advantages and disadvantages of type collecting**

Some of the advantages of type collecting have been mentioned in section 2 above. In addition some other advantages are:

Only moderate research is needed to get started. A copy of "The guidebook of U.S. coins" (Red Book) (~\$12.00) if bought and thumbed through will give a beginner a general overview. After common twentieth century types are acquired the collector can obtain more detailed texts such as Walter Breen's "complete encyclopedia of U.S. Coins(~ \$75.00)

A type collector can pick up bargains in currently slow series such as 2 cent pieces or half dimes. Many low mintage dates in some series are available in extremely fine or higher conditions at moderate prices.

Some disadvantages include:

A type collector will not gain in depth knowledge of a particular series or denomination. He is a "jack of all trades, master of none".

Type collecting becomes, except for the wealthy, impossibly expensive for choice condition 18th and early nineteenth century issues, particularly gold coins. Even well worn "good" conditions can run from \$500 up for most specimens. For even the wealthy the 1808 quarter eagle is a challenge, available infrequently at auctions. Choice reproductions of many 18th century coins are now available, manufactured by the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. These provide a beautiful and moderately priced alternative. This collector has filled many holes in this manner.

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4. Major vs Minor design types

It is a matter of personal preference whether a type collector wishes to include only the major designs, the moderate variations present in the "Red Book", or even more subtle variations. This collector personally adds different alloy variations as long as they are circulating coins, for example, 90% silver, 40% silver and clad Kennedy half dollars. In my opinion circulating commemoratives, such as the 1776-1976 bicentennial series and state quarters, and uncirculated bullion coins should be included. Non circulating silver proof or uncirculated general commemoratives should not. Whether modern uncirculated bullion coins should be included is again a matter of collector preference. While technically issued for circulation, of course they only circulate among bullion dealers and collectors.

Three U.S coins have always generated controversy as to whether they are patterns or struck for circulation. If patterns they are not to be represented in a type set of circulating U.S. coins. The questionable coins are described below, along with my opinion.

1. 1792 half dime. In my opinion it is a coin struck for circulation , as it was struck with existing mint equipment in a basement in Philadelphia during 1792 and released . Most specimens today are well worn, indicating extensive use by the public.
2. 1836-1838 Gobrecht dollars. Much confusion existed for many decades over these, as indeed many variations of patterns were struck. However mint records indicate that very small mintages, 1000 pieces or less, were issued as general releases in 1836 and 1838. Thus in my opinion it is a general issue. This issue presents a financial challenge. It is one of my missing coins, along with the 1907 roman numeral high relief double eagle!
3. Four dollar gold pieces or "Stellas", are a "no brainer" as all were issued as patterns. Nonetheless many wealthy collectors include them, as the designs and denominations are quite unique.

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The U.S. type set list

This in my opinion is the complete type coin list for circulating U.S. Coins, precious metal versions of these when struck, and U.S. bullion coins.

Half Cents

Flowing Hair 1793

Liberty Cap Large
Head 1794

Liberty Cap Small
Head 1795-1797

Draped Bust 1800-1808

Classic Head 1809-1835

Coronet Head 1840-1857

Large Cents

Chain 1793

Wreath 1793

Liberty Cap High Relief Large Head 1794

Liberty Cap Low Relief Small Head 1795-6

Draped Bust 1796-1807

Classic head 1808-1814

Coronet Head 1816-1839

Braided Hair 1840-1857

Small Cents

Flying Eagle 1857-1858

Indian CN 1859

Indian CN 1860-1863

Indian 1864-1909

Lincoln 1909 V.D.B.

Lincoln 1909-1958

Lincoln 1943 steel

Lincoln Memorial 1959-
Two-Cent Pieces 1864-1873
Silver Three Cent Pieces
Type 1 1851-1853
Type 2 1854-1858
Type 3 1859-1873
Nickel Three Cent Pieces 1865-1889
5 Cent Nickels
Shield-Rays 1866-1867
Shield-No Rays 1867-1883
Liberty Head NC 1883
Liberty Head WC 1883-1912
Buffalo Type 1 1913
Buffalo Type 2 1913-1938
Jefferson Wartime 1942-1945
Jefferson 1938-
Half Dimes
Half Disme 1792
Flowing Hair 1794-1795
Draped Bust SE 1796-1797
Draped Bust HE 1800-1805
Capped Bust 1829-1837
Liberty Seated-NS 1837-1838
Liberty Seated No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty Seated-Stars 1838-1859

Liberty Seated-Arrows 1853-1855

Liberty Seated-Legend 1860-1873

Dimes

Draped bust SE 1796-1797

Draped Bust HE 1798-1807

Capped Bust Large 1809-1828

Capped Bust Small
1828-1837

Liberty seated No Stars 1837-1838

Liberty seated Stars, with drapery, 1840-1860

Liberty Seated No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty seated Arrows 1853-1855

Liberty seated Legend 1860-1891

Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1916

Mercury 1916-1945

Roosevelt 1946-1964 Silver

Roosevelt 1965- Clad

Twenty Cent Piece 1875-1878

Quarters

Draped bust SE 1796

Draped Bust HE 1804-1807

Large Bust 1815-1828

Small Bust 1831-1838

Liberty Seated No Motto No Drapery 1838-1840

Liberty Seated No Motto with drapery 1840-1865

Liberty Seated A & R 1853

Liberty Seated Arrows 1854-1855

Liberty Seated with motto 1866-1891

Liberty Seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1916

Standing liberty type 1 1916-1917

Standing liberty type 2 1917-1930

Washington 1932-1964

Washington Clad 1965-98

Bicentennial 1976 clad

Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

State quarters 1999 –clad

State quarters 1999- 90% silver

Half Dollars

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust Small Eagle 1796-1797

Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle 1801-1807

Capped Bust 1807-1836

Capped Bust Reeded Edge 1836-1839

Liberty seated No motto No Drapery 1839

Liberty seated No Motto with drapery 1839-1866

Liberty seated Arrows and Rays 1853

Liberty seated Arrows 1854-1855

Liberty seated With Motto 1866-1891

Liberty seated Arrows 1873-1874

Barber 1892-1915

Liberty Walking 1916-1947

Franklin 1948-1963

Kennedy 1964, Silver

Kennedy 1965-70 40% silver

Kennedy 1971-Clad

Kennedy Bicentennial 1976 clad

Kennedy Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

Dollars

Flowing Hair 1794-1795

Draped Bust Small Eagle 1795-1798

Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle 1798-1804

Gobrecht 1836-1839

Liberty Seated No Motto 1840-1866

Liberty seated With Motto 1866-1873

Trade Dollar 1873-1883

Morgan 1878-1921

Peace High Relief 1921

Peace 1922-1935

Eisenhower 1971-1978 clad

Eisenhower 1971-1978 40% silver

Eisenhower Bicentennial 1976 clad

Eisenhower Bicentennial 1976 40% silver

Susan B. Anthony 1979-1999

Sacagawea 2000-

Gold Dollars

Type 1 1849-1854

Type 2 1854-1856

Type 3 1856-1889

Quarter Eagles, \$2.50 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Right No stars 1796

Capped Bust Right 1796-1807

Capped Bust Left Large 1808

Capped Bust Left Small 1821-1827

Capped Bust Left Small 1829-1834

Classic Head 1834-1839

Liberty Coronet 1840-1907

Indian Head 1908-1929

Three Dollar Gold 1854-1889

Half Eagles, \$5.00 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Small
Eagle 1795-1798

Capped Bust Large
Eagle 1795-1807

Capped Draped Bust 1807-1812

Capped Head 1813-
1834

Classic Head 1834-
1838

Liberty Coronet No
Motto 1839-1866

Liberty Coronet with
Motto 1866-1908

Indian Head 1908-
1929

Eagles, \$10.00 Gold Pieces

Capped Bust Small
Eagle 1795-1797

Capped Bust Large
Eagle 1797-1804

Liberty Coronet No
Motto 1838-1866

Liberty Coronet
1866-1907

Indian Head No
Motto 1907-1908

Indian Head 1908-
1933

Double Eagles, \$20.00 Gold Pieces

Liberty Coronet No
Motto 1849-1866

Liberty Coronet (twenty D) 1866-1876

Liberty Coronet
1877-1907

Saint Gaudens
Roman Numerals
High relief 1907

Saint Gaudens No
Motto 1907-1908

Saint Gaudens with

motto 1907-1932

Bullion Coins

One ounce silver \$1.00 1986-

Tenth ounce gold
\$5.00 1986-

Quarter ounce gold
\$10.00 1986-

Half ounce gold
\$25.00 1986-

One ounce gold \$50.00 1986-

Tenth ounce-one ounce platinum \$10.00-\$100.00 1997-

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6. Getting started

Getting started as a type set collector is quite easy if one desires a set of circulating U.S. coins. One may pull nearly uncirculated examples from change and upgrade by ordering proof sets from the U.S. mint at less than \$20.00. As many state quarters are circulating, this phase can be quite a lot of fun for several months.

After the initial fun phase the new type collector can focus on earlier twentieth century issues. At this point his first buying decisions must be made. Should he buy uncirculated or proof walkers, standing quarters, buffalo nickels etc or settle for circulated grades? As a rule of thumb, this collector would advise that you proceed by acquiring the best grade you can afford, remembering to not show glaring grade discrepancies if you will exhibit. For example, a fine condition standing quarter will "stick out like a sore thumb" in a collection surrounded by about uncirculated or brilliant uncirculated quarters. Excluding Barber quarters, and gold coins, a twentieth century type collection should be assembled at a minimum of about uncirculated grade.

The second half of the nineteenth century will provide far more difficult grading and acquisition decisions. Does the collector try for extremely fine as the minimum grade or very fine? Should he include all Red Book varieties, even more exotic variations such as the 1859 "hollow star" half dime, or only the major types? The financial resources of the collector, his preferences and patience, all will influence his decision. I would advise purchasing this fifty year period in a minimum of extremely fine grade, even if the acquisitions slow somewhat due to finances. After all, you have your entire life to collect, and attractive higher grade coins always bring more on resale.

The decisions become even more difficult for the first 50 years of the nineteenth century. Are "no drapery" versions of the seated half dimes through half dollars to be included? I believe they are significant variations and have included them in my set. Prices are quite reasonable for the no drapery series in very fine and extremely fine grade. Early gold coins from 1800-1833 are rare due to extensive melting, and are out of the price range of the average collector. I advise focusing on completing gold type from 1834 on in minimum of extremely fine grade. Certain early gold types are also available as legal reproductions (see section 13). An additional complication now arising is how to deal with poorly struck issues, such as 1808-1814 large cents and 1800-1805 half dimes /dimes. Well struck problem free examples of these series are rare and cost many multiples of average strikes. My usual advice not to buy weakly struck coins still applies here unless the collector is on a very tight budget. Costs rise dramatically in all series for about uncirculated grade and above. This collector has set a minimum grade of very fine for all coins of this period. As always you the collector must make your decisions based on "finances, preference and level of patience". Never buy "bright shiny" early copper or silver unless professionally certified, as cleaning is probable. A cleaned coin is a difficult sell later.

As has been mentioned earlier, choice eighteenth century type coins become nearly impossible for the

moderate means collector. He may think that he must make difficult choices between obtaining extremely worn examples of many series (chain, wreath cents, early dimes) at greater than \$500, or acquiring choice specimens only after protracted savings plans. I solved this problem by obtaining a minimum of very fine grade for the type coins costing \$1000 or less. The remaining slots were partially filled with choice reproductions from the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. Vacant slots hopefully await further reproductions! Some discontinued GMM issues such as chain and wreath cents, have appreciated substantially in the open market. Nonetheless, several hundred dollars in my opinion is preferable to several thousand for barely discernable specimens.

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7. Grading

The topic of grading will always bring controversy, but I will give brief guidelines.

a. Buy a copy of "Photograde" by James F. Ruddy and study all the pictures. Read the fine print about idiosyncrasies in each series. Try to grade yourself all circulated type coins you view , as moderate means collectors will include many circulated coins in their type set.

b. If you are uncomfortable grading yourself, buy only Professional Coin Grading Service or Numismatic Guarantee Corporation certified coins, even if they cost more. The old cliches read true in coin collecting, "you get what you pay for" and "there is no Santa Claus in Numismatics". On eventual resale, a high percent recovery of cost, or even profit, is more probable for coins graded by these services.

c. Do not buy weakly struck coins, even if attractively priced. A weakly struck coin shows design obliteration only in specific areas, not on all as is the case for a worn specimen. If you are unsure, pass on it.

d. If you do not like how a coin looks don't buy it, as others probably wont like it either.

e. View as many coins as possible in all series. Internet auctions such as E-bay, www.ebay.com , and internet dealers on-line catalogs are great starters. Go to all local shows and scan the bourse floor! Learning to grade yourself before bidding is especially critical for internet auctions, as many coins offered there are grossly over graded.

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8. **Methods of procuring type coins**

Viewing and obtaining coins has never been easier. On line auctions such as E-bay have brought coin bidding to our living rooms. In addition to the new internet method all classical methods retain their validity. This collector has bought by every method here.

- a. Numismatic adds such as in Coin World.
- b. Mail bid sales, also often in Coin World.
- c. Local Dealers Shops
- d. Live Auction
- e. Personal transactions, see if you have a local coin club for personal interaction.
- f. Fixed price lists, request to be on mailing lists by contacting dealers in numismatic publications.
- g. Numismatic chat rooms on the internet.

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9. Common versus scarce dates

Conventional wisdom states that a type collection should be filled with the most common dates in order to easily obtain choice specimens at moderate cost. Contrarian arguments to this strategy are:

- a. Common dates of recent series may be un-saleable and will be lumped together and dumped wholesale on liquidation of the collection.
- b. Scarce dates in many series are available at the same price or moderate markups from prices of the most common dates. Examples abound in the gold series and nineteenth century liberty seated coinage. Study the prices and mintage figures in the "Red Book". A scarcer date for a type coin could wake up some day and bring you a profit!

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10) Grading and grade matching

Some earlier comments should be repeated here. For example, a fine condition standing quarter will "stick out like a sore thumb" in a quarter type collection surrounded by about uncirculated or brilliant uncirculated examples. Try to have the coins on each side of your specimen in the type series be within one grade level. An aesthetically pleasing type coin exhibit, even if consisting of "middle" circulated grades, will be a source of satisfaction and pride for the type collector. If the type collector fills the late 18th century type coin examples with modern reproductions, such as those offered by the Gallery mint Museum(<http://www.coin-gallery.com/gmm/>), he must decide whether to buy proof or uncirculated versions. This collector prefers uncirculated pieces since in most cases they more closely resemble the early coins as first struck. The "Copy" designation is generally less obtrusive on the reverse. Grade matching will of course not work here if you also include some real 18th century type coins. My **minimum** recommended grades per 50 year increment are:

21st Century B.U. and Proof

20th century 1950-2000 B.U. and Proof

20th Century 1901-1949, A.U.

19th century 1850-1900 E.F.

19th century 1801-1849 Fine

18th Century V.G. (except for reproductions)

If you do not intent to exhibit these suggestions are less important.

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11. Common Mistakes

I have made most of these mistakes myself. "Act in haste, repeat in leisure". I hope these lessons learned will help you.

- a) Buying low grade coins to "quickly fill the holes" is always a mistake as low grade coins have poor eye appeal and have practically no resale value. If you are compulsive and impatient like me you can fall into this trap.
- b) Not returning a coin with some problem as it is a "hassle" to repackage and mail. Believe me, it is a bigger hassle to be stuck with a doggy coin and face the necessity of upgrading it later. Ship it back to the dealer and don't look back!
- c) Buying for profit. Type coin collecting is for fun, and a collection acquired over many years can sometimes but not always be sold for gain. Most circulated type coins bring only 30-60% of retail. If you seek profit from type collecting buy only P.C.G.S or N.G.C. certified coins in mint state 63 and higher. Even for these coins profit is not guaranteed. The coin market is extremely cyclical with constant switching of "hot" and "slow" series. An advantage for the type collector is his intrinsic diversification by possessing many different series.
- d) Impulse buying. Always have a short list of coins you wish to add in the next several months, their range of conditions, and expected price ranges. If the next morning you have delayed sticker shock, return the coin immediately. Repenting is always in leisure.
- e) Going off the track. If you wish to enjoy collecting to the fullest, you should focus on at most two collecting specialties at a time. Doing otherwise will squander money and time on what will look like a mishmash with no theme. This collector in addition to U.S. type coins also has a small collection of political hard times tokens.

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12)Upgrading

In general, if you have the patience and discipline it is best to buy your type coin **just once in a pleasing grade that shows all the design details**. Buying lower grade coins to fill the holes was mentioned earlier as a mistake. When you upgrade you become saddled with a lower grade duplicate that you probably cannot sell at retail value or even cost. Thus you are paying more for the item in the long term. If you must upgrade, my general rule is that upgrading less than two full grade units is not worth it. For example upgrade a very fine coin to about uncirculated, a fine coin to extremely fine, etc. At least in this manner you will see a significant upgrade in eye appeal and detail, partially compensating for probable financial loss.

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13) Reproductions

It was mentioned earlier that many early U.S. type coins are high priced even in low grades. It is a matter of collector preference if you wish to fill these holes with modern reproductions. All legitimate reproductions contain the word "copy" on obverse or reverse. This collector has been well satisfied with those manufactured by the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs Arkansas. They are made with close reproductions of original mint equipment and are quite attractive. I collect the uncirculated rather than the proof versions, as they more closely resemble the look of the original coins.

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14) Spicing it up

In addition to the classic U.S. circulating type coin series many other interesting tokens or medals have actively circulated as money. Periods such as the financially tumultuous 1830s or civil war era saw Federal money disappear. Many private tokens actively circulated with political and patriotic themes or advertising. Prior to 1788 the states also legally could coin their own money. Such additions add breadth to the collection at moderate cost. Below is a list of potential candidates.

State half cent (only Massachusetts)

State cent (Ma, Ct, Ny or Vt)

Half Cent Hard Times Token (1837)

Cent Size Political Hard Times Token (1834-1844)

Store Card Hard Times Token (1834-1844)

Feuchtwanger cent 1837

Feuchtwanger three cent 1837 (a toughie)

Patriotic civil war token

Store card civil war token

Hobo Nickel (1930,s buffalo nickels, carved on obv to various portraits). Many modern reproductions exist. Do not pay over \$10.00 unless certified by a reputable specialist in this series!

Racketeer Nickel (1883 no cents nickel, gold plated to pass as \$5 gold piece). Comments same as for Hobo Nickel.

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15) Managing your budget

Coin collecting can become addicting, and many collectors go over their budget on impulse purchases or spending sprees. It is imperative that you set a maximum amount you will be spend per month or year. This collector has found that on an amount of \$1500-\$2000 per year rapid progress is possible for several years provided that the period is from 1850-present and the grades are extremely fine to proof. In today's age this amount of money could be spent on a single computer or set of golf clubs! The collectors advantage is that the collection will at least give a partial return of his money in the future, as compared to other items that depreciate to zero.

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16)What's the point of it?

Collectors, whether of coins, stamps, antiques, dolls or whatever, seem to have a natural affinity for acquiring, cataloguing and striving to complete groups of items.

As stated earlier, collecting by design type is a life long pursuit for most collectors unless they are quite comfortable financially. For most people, the "thrill of the chase" and the satisfaction on obtaining a new choice item are the principle rewards. Completion will actually lead to apathy and lack of collecting purpose for many. When additions slow as the collection becomes more advanced, many collectors such as this author turn to Numismatic education or writing to keep the thrill of involvement. If you are just beginning there will be many years of acquisitions, searching and enjoyment for you before reaching this point.

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17) Storing your type coins

Storing coins is indeed a problem. The collector must not use PVC(polyvinyl chloride) flips.

Plasticiser and chlorine in this plastic will corrode the surface of coins, particularly copper.

Also avoid "cellulose" or "nitrocellulose" plastics as they can evolve corrosive nitric acid.

Use polyethylene film based cardboard holders, polyethylene terphthalate(PET) flips or mylar. Solid Lucite holders are also acceptable.

Proof sets prior to 1955 are packaged in "boxes" with coins in degradable plastic pouches (cellulosic?). They all should be re-housed in suitable flips or Lucite. Proof sets from 1955-1964 are housed in polyethylene and seem to hold up well over the years. Re-house only for exhibiting purposes.

Certified coins and modern proof sets are generally housed in non corroding plastic, but all holders are permeable to corrosive gases such as hydrogen sulfide or sulfur dioxide. Store your coins in a dry secure (bank vault) environment with "sulfur scavengers" i.e. silver impregnated paper, in the vault if possible for added protection.

Avoid storage by wrapping the coin in Aluminum foil. While effective in preventing tarnish, the aluminum can leave hairline scratches, particularly on proof coins.

How does the type collector detect corrosive chlorine? Run the "**Beilstein**" test.

Take a piece of copper wire and heat it in the blue flame of a gas stove, bunsen burner or acetylene torch until it glows red. then place the hot wire on a tiny piece of the plastic (the plastic will melt on the copper). Place

the plastic/copper melt back in the flame. If the flame turns green or "azure", deep blue/purple, after the initial yellow burn, the plastic has chlorine. If only yellow is seen your flip is chlorine free and probably acceptable.

Copper chloride formed in the flame is responsible for the distinctive color.

No paper envelopes can be trusted to be sulfur free. Sulfur tarnishes silver, nickel and copper coins.

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18) Exhibiting your Type Collection

After several years of active collecting, many type collectors will feel the urge to exhibit their collection. Reasons to exhibit can include one of three common motives.

a) **Personal Pleasure.** Many collectors want to observe their coins in a pleasing logical format. Many standard "type coin" panels are commercially available. They will include the standard types and may not include minor types of interest to you. If you are willing to limit yourself to the common types, the "**Kingsword Series**" type coin holders, available from Bowers and Merena Galleries, Woolfeboro New.Hampshire, are an excellent choice. Collectors of moderate means can expect to fill all the "holes" in these panels, including gold, from 1834 to the present, with two exceptions, the Gobrecht dollars of 1836-1839 and the 1907 high relief Saint Gaudens double eagle.

b) **To interest family members or friends.** If your goal is to have an interesting conversation piece for viewing by family or friends the commercial holders may not be the best choice. Non collectors are most interested by gold coins and odd or strange denominations such as two cent pieces, half cents or quarter eagles. The type collector must then customize the exhibit for his audience. To do this effectively he will need to prepare his own holders, including background and text. An excellent article detailing the best methods to do this is:

Carlton, R. Scott, "The Art and Science of Numismatic Exhibiting", The Numismatist, April, 1990, p550.

c) **Professional Exhibiting.** The serious type collector may want to exhibit at a local, regional or national convention. Prizes are awarded and the exhibits judged. In this environment, aesthetics of the exhibit, novelty of theme, high coin grade and completeness are critical. Scott Carlton's article cited above will again give many valuable pointers.

Themes: Creative type collectors can devise many themes of great interest to the general public. Novel themes are also more likely to win prizes at numismatic conventions. While the possible themes are limited only by imagination, below are listed possible theme exhibits likely to spark non-collector interest.

a) **Odd denominations.** Half cent, Large cent, two cent piece, three cent silver, three cent nickel, half dime, twenty cent piece, gold dollar, quarter eagle, three dollar gold piece.

b) **Pairs**, differing design types of a denomination struck in the same year. They are:

1793 chain, wreath and liberty cap cents (Use Gallery Mint Museum Reproductions!).

1857 large cent, flying eagle cent

1909 indian, lincoln cents

1883 shield, liberty nickels

1938 buffalo, Jefferson nickels

1837 capped bust, liberty seated half dimes

1837 capped bust, liberty seated dimes

1916 Barber, mercury dimes

1838 capped bust, liberty seated quarters

1916 Barber, standing liberty quarters (tough)

1807 draped bust, capped bust half dollars

1839 capped bust, liberty seated half dollars

1921 Morgan, peace dollars

1854 type one, type two gold dollars

1856 type two, type three gold dollars

1795 small eagle, heraldic eagle \$5.00 gold (very tough)

1834 capped head to left, classic head \$5.00 gold (very tough)

1908 coronet, indian \$5.00 gold

1797 small eagle, heraldic eagle \$10.00 gold (very tough)

1907 coronet, indian \$10.00 gold

1907 liberty, Saint Gaudens \$20.00 gold

c) Confusing or inconvenient denominations

half cent (too big, too little purchasing power, even in 19th century)

large cent (too big)

three cent silver (too small, easily lost)

1883 "no cents" nickel (same size as \$5.00 gold piece, gold plated and passed as half eagle)

Twenty cent piece (confused with quarter)

One dollar gold piece, type one (too small, easily lost)

Susan B. Anthony dollar (confused with quarter)

Themes which could be a hit with judges at convention exhibits include:

- a) **Rarest date in series shown for each design type** (example, 1916 shown for standing liberty quarter type one). Obviously this is an expensive theme for type collectors of financial means.
- b) **First date for type shown** (examples, 1892 for Barber series of dimes, quarters and half dollars).
- c) **Last date of type shown**, (examples, 1915 for Barber series)

I have merely touched on some of the innovative ways that the collector can exhibit his type collection. The creative collector should be able to design many other interesting themes.

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19) Final Thoughts

I hope this article will get you as enthusiastic as I am about U.S. type collecting. My initial interest in coins was kindled as a boy when my grandfather gave me old worn large cents and indian cents on summer visits. On his passing he left me several gold coins which are still in my collection. They were my cornerstone to collecting enjoyment. If you start with modern U.S. coins, they are a great cornerstone too. Good luck in your collecting endeavors

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20) Bibliography

All coin collectors should have a numismatic library for reference and research. Below are my selections. Of course each collector will find different books of interest. In my opinion, Breen's massive work, Bowers book on design types, the "Red Book" and "Photograde" are musts for type collectors. They are highlighted in bold.

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